THE TRACK RECORD

THE WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #150 JUNE SUMMARY 2005

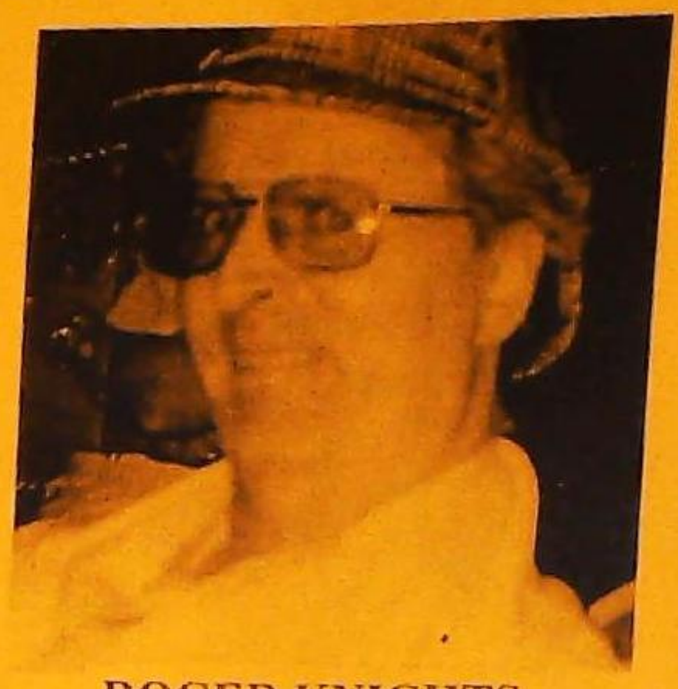
EDITOR RAY CROWE

©COPYRIGHT 2001 ROBERT SCHWARTZ

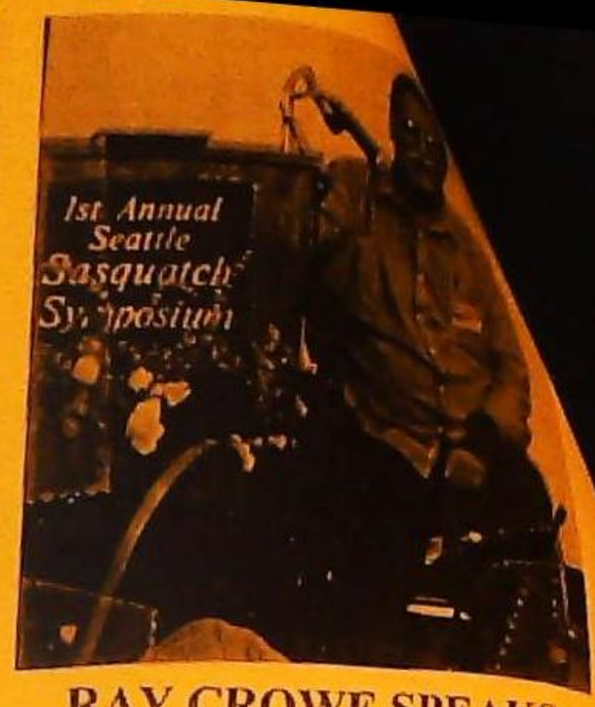
LEWIS AND CLARK OVERWINTER NEAR ASTORIA, OR, 1805-1806

JUST A STONE
THROW AWAY

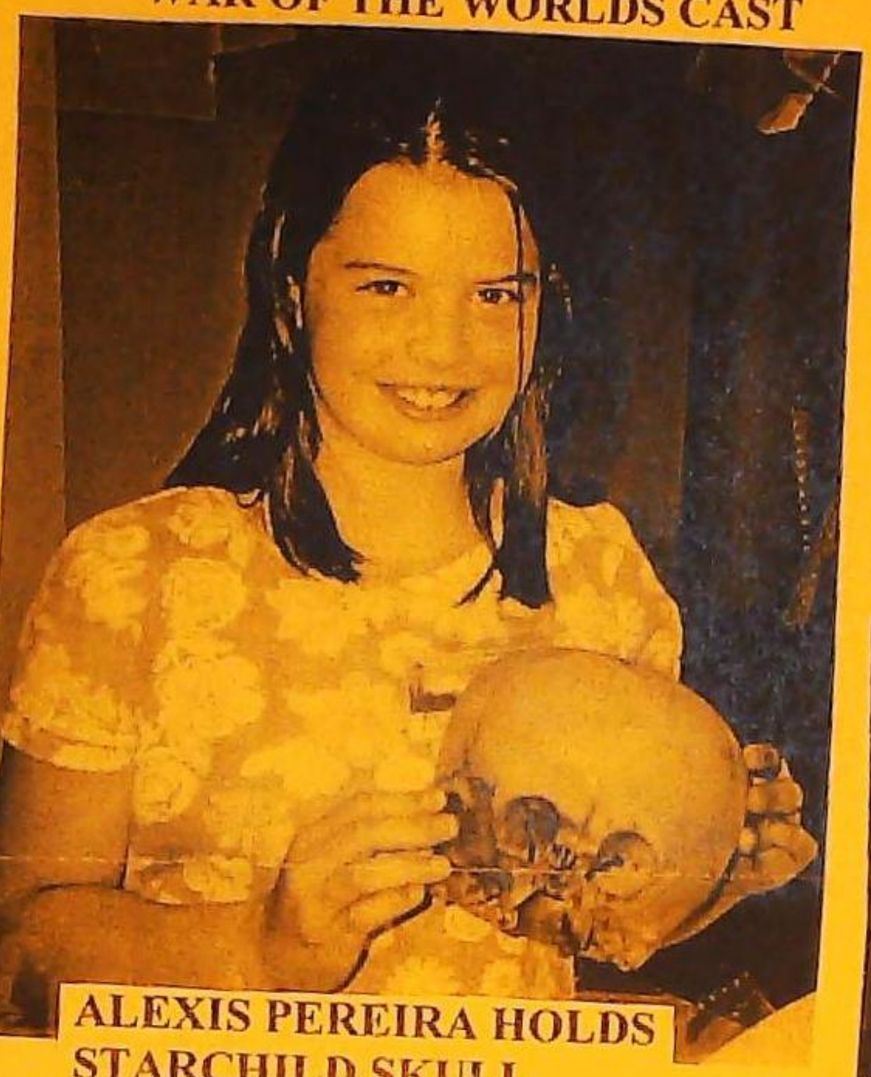
WAR OF THE WORLDS CAST



ROGER KNIGHTS

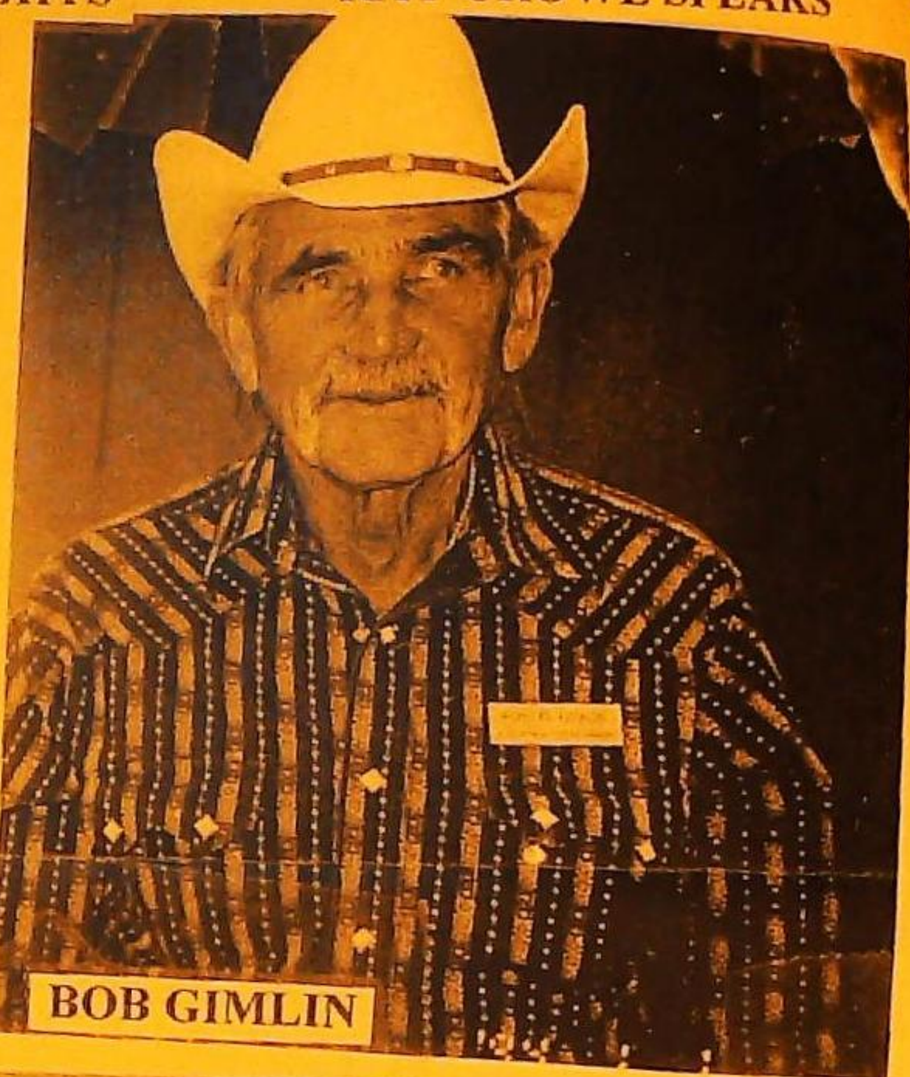


RAY CROWE SPEAKS

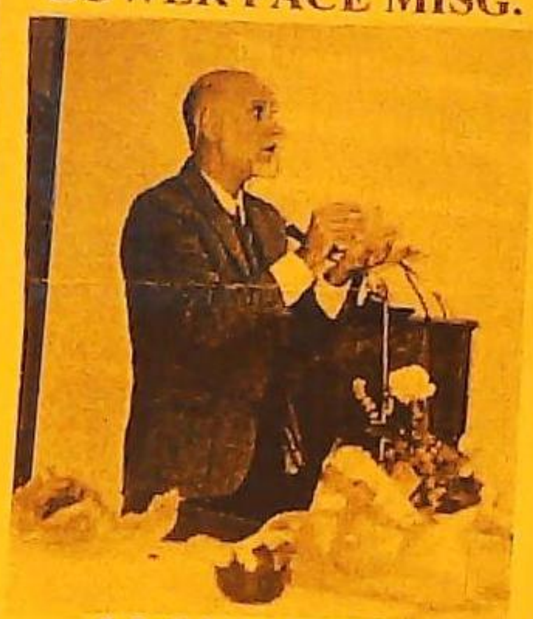


ALEXIS PEREIRA HOLDS
STARCHILD SKULL

STAR CHILD SKULL
LOWER FACE MISG.

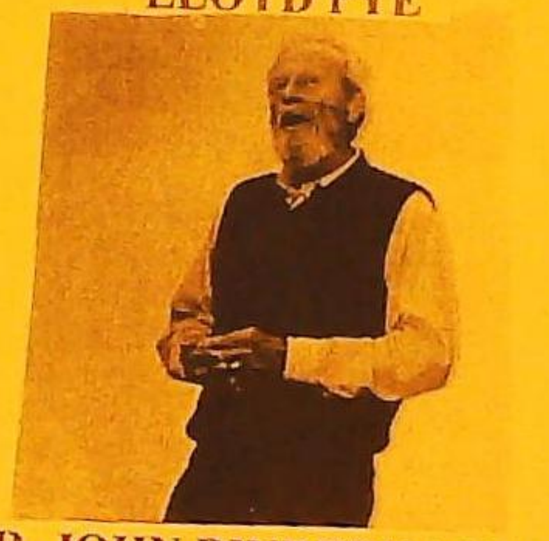


BOB GIMLIN



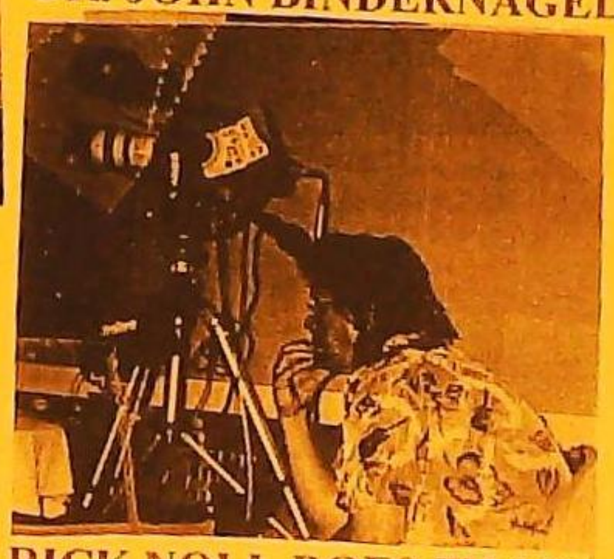
LLOYD PYE

DANA FOSS &
MATT
CROWLEY



DR. JOHN BINDERNAGEL

JOHN KIRK



RICK NOLL DOES FILMS

CHRIS MURPHY WITH SKOOKUM CAS

The Track Record

The International Bigfoot Society™ Newsletter
A subsidiary of the Western Bigfoot Society™

Issue 150 June Summary, 2005, $20.00 year (10 issues), $30.00 foreign, post paid. There is no November or December summary, but Specials may be published, 225 NE 30th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124-7055; Phone: (503) 640-6581 Email: RayCrowe@netzero.net , Vice President: Patti Reinhold, 1086 46th Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386 541-367-2359. Other board members: Terry Reams, Keith Ardinger, Diane Demers. The WBS is a tax-exempt, non profit organization, 501(c)3 your tax-deductible donations are appreciated #93-1181554 Copyright Feb 2005 InternationalBigfootSociety.com Domain name.Webmaster Robert Murdock; robert@digitaledge.com
****

MAKE CHECKS TO RAY CROWE PLEASE I DON'T HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT TO WBS, IBS, TRACK RECORD, ETC...MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO RAY CROWE...PLEASE!!
****

Portions of this newsletter are reprinted under the "Fair Use" Commentary as educational material without benefit of financial gain. http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.html
****

* REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.

MEETING

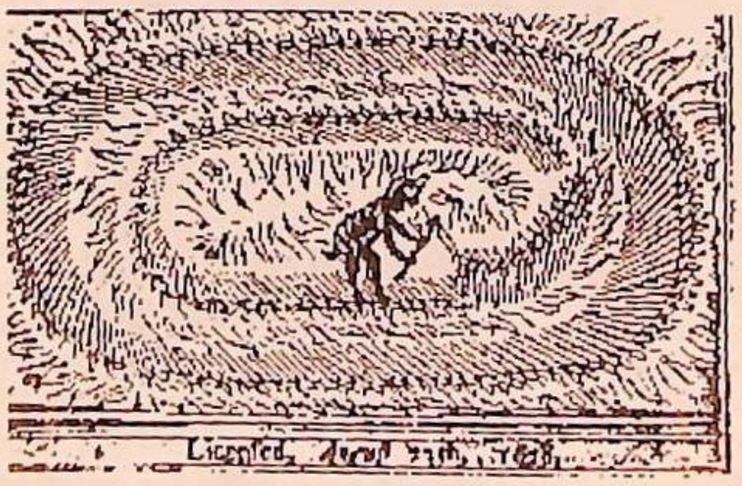
Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz.

MEETINGS

The June 25the meeting keynote speaker was Keith Ardinger and his topic concerned the enigmatic crop circles. He did note first off that 80% of the formations found in England were probably hoaxed, creating a problem for investigators. The nodes of stems often reveal if the formation is real or not. Watch for expanded and bent nodes, often exploded. This appears to be some sort of microwave effect.

In a video Keith documented many crop formations, and commented that at least one farmer saw a craft with blue lights hover over a field where loop-the-loops were done, and later a formation was found with interwoven stalks...impossible to do by hoaxing. Keith also noted that in some formations, the grass is bent above the ground, again impossible if a hoaxer were to trample with boards. Another farmer said he saw a hand come down from the sky and swirled the wheat...the Hand of God, Keith commented, jocularly. Most recently, Keith said, a formation shaped like a dumbbell was found in eastern Canada a few weeks ago.

CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON 1996



EARLIEST KNOWN FORMATION IN 1647 ENGLAND

KEEP YUR' SKEPTICALS ON FOR ALL THESE REPORTS, Y'ALL HEAR, PODNER?

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF RADIO AND ELECTRICITY
1312 BAY STREET
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

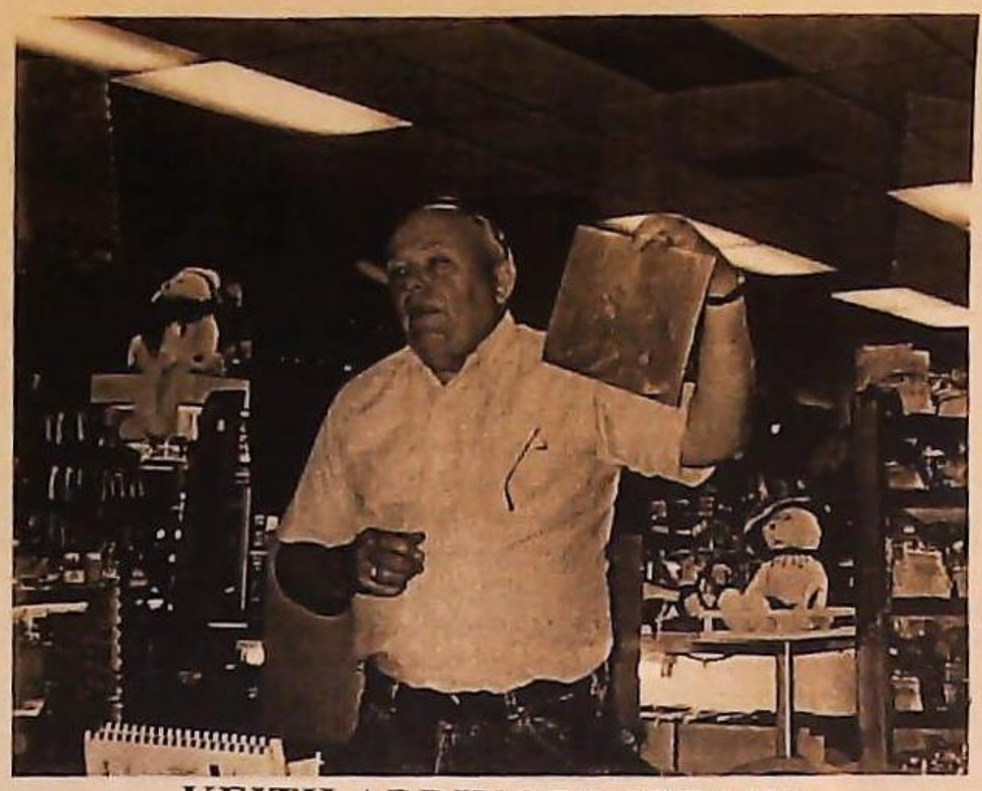
* Kai Wada, visiting from Los Angeles, had a few comments. He has spent 5 weeks in Nepal doing a documentary on the Yeti that he hopes to have complete in December. He said there were three kinds of Yeti that he collected folklore and sighting stories about, commenting that the Chinese have stories of shooting the creatures in Tibet. A female Yeti was seen drinking out of a hollow in rock, and in Tibet a Yeti carried a rock to throw. Kai did not visit Tibet or Bhutan, but commented in Bhutan the King has areas set aside for Yeti protection. Kai said he saw a lot of skins, but they were all of Blue Bears.

* Attended as a guest of Dana Fos (Seattle Museum of the Mysteries board member), the 2005 Northwest UFO/Paranormal Conference and Sasquatch Symposium, June 4-5, at the Seattle Center in that city.
* To the admiration of the attendees, the program started with a cast duplicating H.G. Wells "War Of The Worlds", in it's orginal form, and in period costume. Represented by Museum of Radio in Bellingham.

Lloyd Pye of Florida was the first speaker, talking about his Starchild Skull, a hybrid, he said, between a human and an alien. Lloyd suggested that there were a lot of possibilities of beings that could do high level genetic engineering.

The skull has been C14 dated at 900 years old. The eye sockets are noted to be not deep, and dented in front like an alien Grey, not a child with water on the brain-- hydro-encephaletic or cradle board marked. More at www.lloydpye.com

* Another key speaker was Bud Hopkins, his topic, "Are We Alone in the Universe?" He discussed with many UFO slides, abductions, strange marks and scars (pits) on the body, plus implants.
* Other speakers were Bill Beaty who spoke on the genius of Nikola Tesla; Dr Nick Begich, on Electronic Tecnology Used by the Military; AGHOST on Paranormal Researcd and Electronic Voice Phenomenon; and Peter Davenport on the National UFO Reporting center.
* Sunday, the speakers were concerned with Bigfoot. Chris Murphy was first up with a talk on the Physical evidence supporting the existence of Sasquatch. Many of his materials are on display at the Seattle Museum of the Mysteries.
* Dr John Bindernagel talked about Sasquatch or North America's Great Ape; Matt Crowley talked about Dermal Ridges and Casting Artifacts; Owen Caddy had a film analysis of the Patterson/Gimlin film.
* Bob Gimlin talked briefly about his and Roger's early searching for Bigfoot in the Mt St Helens area. Roger then wanted to go to Northern California where footprints had been found around a water pipe. On October 20th, he and Roger were riding around a bend, Roger in the lead by a horse length, when the creature was seen standing by the creek and started walking away.
* John Green was scheduled to speak but due to poor health, didn't make it.
* Dana asked if I would say a few words, and after four hefty gentlemen wrestled my chair and myself to the stage, I spoke briefly on the origin of the Western Bigfoot Society (now IBS), and gave my ideas/guesses about the origin of the Bigfoot phenomenon, namely that pointed head H. erectus migrated to North America from Siberia, and that stout flat headed Neanderthal types followed the ice flows in the Atlantic, hunting



KEITH ARDINGER SPEAKS

seals and such (recent PBS science program demonstrated that humans did it). On the continent, they cross bred with humans and each other, yielding a myriad of different body forms, besides inbreeding themselves to create many bizarre body types (albino or three toed).

BIGFOOT ACTIVITY REPORTS

* From : Christopher Keefauver keefauver2002@yahoo.com
"Doc" Keefauver monster hunter/ notice
Thu, 9 Jun 2005 15:48:46 -0700 (PDT)

I have received a report of a sighting near Weitchpec, around the Indian reservation last week at junction 299 and 96, Willow Creek area of northern Ca., I and Dan are leaving in the morning should be there by 8:00 am. Will let you know what turns up, I haven't got the June newsletter yet with the "Doc" Keefauver expedition story yet but I'm sure it will come soon.....let ya know when I get back!

Your friend in Hayfork

Note: Keep skepticals on tightly for following reports

* Sighting: Gretchen L. Lefler
6301 SW Palatine #12
Portland, OR 97219 503-293-411 7laughingpearl@hotmail.com
Can you contact: Yes Can you publish: yes
Date: June 1989 approx 4:00 am

At a campsite, near Weed, N CA. Developed area, w/sites and showers, little underbrush, dense thick woods (unknown tree type). Camp set at the base of incline, south of Shasta.

My sister graduated from high school, in Klamath Falls in June, and my ex and I had thrown our mattress in the back of our pickup and drove over from Boise. After the ceremony, we drove down 101 through the redwoods, camped on the beach for awhile, and then drove across N CA, south (sic: North?) of Mt Shasta, planning to drive into K Falls from the alternate route. We drove until we saw this campground, and I wanted a shower, so we stopped. We generally avoided developed sites, and weren't really paying attention to the surroundings, or the scenery, and planned on leaving first thing in the morning.

Witnesses: My ex and I are no longer in contact or speaking, and the last time we spoke of the incident he says he only remembers my fright. His name is John Kennedy, in Boise last I heard.

Report to any other org: BFRO several years ago

Description of sighting: After our showers and dinner we went to sleep after it got dark. The evening went fine until I started having this really weird dream. I found myself staring at this huge face that was staring back at me through the truck's canopy window. It was a really big face, and it was about 2 feet from mine. Here is the problem, I wasn't asleep, I had woken up and was seeing this. I was in that half way state of waking when this image became quite 'real', stood up from having to bend to look in, walked toward the front of the truck, across the road and up the incline into the trees, where it disappeared. I sat up in bed and craned my neck to watch it leave. I wish I could say that I was brave, but I think I woke my husband after the paralysis left and shouted "get me the *#~! outtahere!". The time was about 4am, and it was no longer pitch black. I made him get up, we crawled out of the back and into the front and we left. There was a noticeable smell, very musky. At that time I was 21 years old, and although fond of the history of the Sasquatch/Bigfoot stories, it never really dawned on me that we were camping in a prime corridor, nor that I would have a sighting. What I saw was not a bear, or a man in a gorilla suit. I did not have 'just a dream', or nightmare. I saw an upright walking hominid, with some degree of curious intelligence, of immense size and strength staring at me while I slept that scared me silly.

Physical Attributes: The image of that face is still etched in memory. Prominent cheekbones devoid of hair, deep eye sockets, large brow ridge. Face was not prognathic, very humanoid, mixture of ape/human nose, not as spread out as I would have thought or that has been reported. Lips were fleshy, but not fat. Not much of a chin. Saggital crest was quite noticeable. I got the sense of brownish hair from what light was available. Eyes seem to refract a slight glow. But deeply set sockets were dark. Overall sense of 'male', but no breasts/genitals seen. Looking back, I get the sense that he was studying my face, because he looked like he was frowning, but not really in anger, more concentrating. His head hair was not very long, but in that stooped over position, it looked like he had a hairy 'grizzly' hump behind his head, and he had what looked like shaggy bangs on his forehead, couldn't see any ears. When he stood up, he towered over the canopy and as I watched him walk away, based upon his size compared to the trees, I would say approx 7 ft.

In my report to BFRO, I preferred to remain anonymous, however I now stand behind what I have seen. I have a B.A. in anthropology/archaeology, and currently a graduate in anthropology.

* Lynn Canfield, 42510 ne 256th Ave
Amboy, Washington 98601 360-247-5261
lcanfield@tds.net
Can you contact: Yes Can you publish: yes
Date: MAY 1978 Time: 10:00am

Hill side, By lake Merwin hideaway. The thing came down on two feet. But bears cannot do that. It came out of trees. Into pasture land.

Actions of reporter: Looking out the sliding glass door/window.

Witnesses:Bill Canfield, He said that bears cannot walk DOWN hill on there back legs.

I t cleared 60 acres in the matter of 3-5 minutes. The thing came out of the trees, into pasture land. It was by Lake Merwin Hideaway. Our dog became real submissive. It went back into the woods. I was curious to see what it was.

Physical Attributes: It was 7-8' feet tall, all brownish red. Completely covered in hair. Could not see any face marking. The BF had long arms. His stride and arm movements were really long.

(Note: seems I ran an ad for the Hideaway showing employees in BF suite, Ray)

* Rex A. Dix, 1608 Ville Cecelia Lane, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042-1637
314-952-4941 radmohunter@charter.net
Can you contact: Yes; Can you publish: yes
Sighting info: Date: 15-17 April 2005, 8:30PM
Location: Dent County, Missouri--3mi. off MO-32E on Dent County Road 433--In the middle of the Mark Twain National Forest
Actions of reporter: Going to bed for the night.
Report to any other org: Yes, BFRO & GCBRO

I don't know what to think. I found this website. I have to add what I have experienced. First a little background on me: I am 60 years old and work for the U.S. Government. I have been camping for most of my life and was an Adult Boy Scout Leader and Trainer for approx. 20 years. I have been hunting for over 30 years as well. I know the animals that inhabit the woods in Missouri. I own 80 fenced acres of private property in the Mark Twain National Forest in Dent County Missouri. I am bordered on the southeast 40 acres by a farm and on

GIMLIN AT SEATTLE

the northwest 40 acres by a farm. The rest is all National Forest on all sides of my property. On my property there is a wet weather creek that almost always has a little water in it. My property is mostly oak forest with about 10 acres of open space that was once used for grazing cattle. There is a pine forest on the northeast side where an old logging road is our entrance to the property.

I have heard some strange vocalizations since buying the property over 3 years ago. I have heard the same or similar sounds or "vocalizations" on the BFRO & GCBRO websites. I know what bobcats, coyotes, screech owls, barred owls, foxes, feral dogs & hogs, turkeys, and most other "forest animals and birds" sound like and these vocalizations don't sound like any of these. I have also heard the banging of wood on trees in the woods around me at night.

I was staying overnight at this "farm/hunting cabin" of mine on the weekend of 15-17 April 2005. There was a 3/4 moon out and the nights were very clear and somewhat cool (about 48-52 degrees on Friday & Saturday nights) but I had the window cracked as I like to go to sleep to the "night sounds." I had just gone to bed (about 10:30PM) on Friday night when I heard the "night sounds" completely stop. About 4-5 minutes later I heard an incredibly loud screech or scream come from somewhere close and from the southwest of my "farm/hunting cabin" (probably within 200-300 yards at the most). About 30 seconds later there was an answering vocalization from quite a ways off and to the southeast. This repeated 4 different times. Each time the vocalizations got closer together, and the one closest to my cabin got farther away towards the southeast. Between the 2nd and 3rd vocalizations, I heard a banging like a board was being smacked against a tree. There was 3 loud bangs from close to me and then three (almost answering) bangs from the vocalization farther away. After the 4th vocalization (which seemed very close to each other and farther from me) all the vocalizations and tree banging stopped. About 3-4 minutes later the whippoorwills started in and the "night sounds" came back to the woods.

On Saturday night it was very much like the night before, except there were no vocalizations or tree banging, just the "night sounds" ceasing and about 3-4 minutes later the window right next to my bed where there was moonlight streaming in the room (on the outside this window is about 4' from the ground to the bottom of the window and the window is 2' wide and 3' tall) went completely dark as if something or someone stood outside and blocked out the moon and stars at the window. This "blackout" only lasted for 2-5 seconds. I don't know exactly how long for sure as I was practically holding my breath and trying to be as quiet as possible. I even reached for my pistol just to be safe. I had the window slightly open and DID NOT smell anything special like I have read about. I did smell what smelled like a wet dog and there were no dogs around that weekend. I should know as I have 2 Labrador Retrievers and a Rottweiler, none of which were with me at the time. I did go to the door, after the moonlight came back in through the window, and turned on the porch light to see if I could see what had blocked out the moonlight. There was nothing there and there was not even a cloud in the night sky. I was alone at the "farm/hunting cabin," doing some scouting for the upcoming Turkey season. The next morning I looked under the window and as much as 10 feet away for any sign of footprints but there was nothing there. The ground was covered by leaf clutter all around the "farm/hunting cabin" and I couldn't find any trace of footprints in the dry leaves. I don't know what this was but if someone wants to call me they can.

MISCELANEOUS

* "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net

From WOAI-TV, Channel 4 (San Antonio, TX): 13 June 2005
Possible Chupacabra Sighting

Another mystery beast has surfaced in South Texas, and some say it might be a chupacabra.

The first one surfaced in Elmendorf last year. Now, one man in Luling, east of San Antonio, tells News 4 WOAI he caught a mysterious beast on video tape. Chris Coble says he and a friend were driving and saw the creature peer out from behind a bush.

"We were driving down the road and he'd seen it, probably about 30 yards off the road," Coble said of his friend. They were in a wooded area up near Luling. "It was three foot tall, hairless, long, and had like a hunch back," Coble said. He brought the videotape to News 4 WOAI. On videotape, the animal looks like it could be a dog or coyote, but Coble says it could be a chupacabra. A rancher in Elmendorf claimed last year he found a mystery beast on his property. That animal was sent away for DNA testing. News 4 WOAI went to wildlife experts about the newest claim about the animal in Luling. "I really don't think it is a chupacabra," Tiffany Soecthing with Natural Bridge Caverns Wildlife Ranch said of Coble's creature. "I would lean towards a dog that has a hair problem." Soeching said she has seen animals like it before and Coble's "beast" looks like a wolf hybrid.

* Peter Byrne peterbyrne@aol. SOMETHING FOR THE TR, IF YOU WISH Tue, 14 Jun 2005

Bigfoot Hunter, (semi-retired now) Peter Byrne is a bit of a

CORPSE AT SEATTLE'S CURIOSITY SHOP

dark horse. He tells us that he has been a big game hunter, that he discovered the largest elephant in Asia and wrote a book about it, that he has done the first, exploratory descents on three high Himalaya rivers plus one African and one Chinese and that in World War 11 he was in the British Royal Air Force for four years in combat zones. But was he? Or is this another of his stories? Well, apparently the Australian Government thinks so because they have sent Peter an official invitation, to be a Guest of Honor at a commemorative ceremony in the Australian owned Cocos Islands, where, they say, Peter spent fourteen months of his four years of war service. And why are they doing this? Well, Peter was with Air Sea Rescue and it appears that one day he and two other men went into a crashed, burning, sinking Catalina aircraft and saved the lives of seven men, carrying all of them to out to safety. Two died later but five survived and now, after sixty years, the Australians have found the plane and are bringing it up and are going to build a museum around it in the islands. The two principal guests of honor? Peter, and Robert Short, one of the men he carried to safety. Peter and his partner Cathy Griffin leave for Perth and the islands on the 14th evening and afterwards will spend some time in Australia and he tells us that while there, if he finds a Yowie (Bigfoot's brother down under) he'll bring one back with him for a Track Record interview and photo session.

* Loren Coleman; lcoleman@maine.rr.com

Dmitri Bayanov has some comments he wishes to share with the hominology and cryptozoology communities.

Some Thoughts triggered off by the Kosovo Sighting; Robert Kinion, of the U.S., was stationed at the FOB (Forward Observation Base) in Kosovo (in former Yugoslavia) as a civilian contractor, and while driving to Camp Monteith to do a distribution run and pick up laundry and such, in the morning of February 15, 2005, sighted a hairy biped, that he calls a "hominid," coming down a fairly steep slope and then crossing the road in front of the vehicle. For details visit http//www.cryptozoology.com website.

The witness was, in his words, "afraid of ridicule" from his work mates and feared for his security clearance, "so kept quiet about it," but after

ANOTHER SEATTLE CORPSE

talking to his wife felt that he "can share it with like minded peeps."

How to evaluate the sighting? I call it a "legitimate marvel." We have lots of old-time "Wildmen" information from Western Europe but only a few, no more than half a dozen present-day sighting reports west of Russia. Now it took an American (!) to add one more. He was observing and reporting possible unlawful actions of humans in the area and ended with observing and reporting the "unlawful" presence of a relict hominid. What a marvel!!!

Why legitimate? Because, being familiar with the BF problem, the witness knew how highly such information is valued by those who are after it, and he knew how to bring it to the attention of interested researchers. Imagine scores of daily sightings around the world by those who lack such knowledge or even have it but do not report what they saw for fear of ridicule or something worse. This indicates that relevant information is an absolutely vital factor for the existence of hominology. Progress in the means of information is responsible for the appearance of other legitimate marvels in recent years.

Ever more hominologists recognize now that habituation of homins is the highroad to victory. But a permanent problem here is that people who regularly observe and habituate the creatures are reluctant to make public their achievements. A marvelous breakthrough in this respect happened in America in 2002 with the publication of "50 Years with Bigfoot – Tennessee Chronicles of Co-Existence" by Mary Green and Janice Carter Coy. The authors tell all those who would listen of an unprecedented case of Bigfoot habituation at a local farm (the Carter farm) in Tennessee. The pioneering book includes both the known and lots of quite novel and unheard of facts of BF anatomy and behavior, including their sex life. Researchers Will Duncan, Dr. W.H. Fahrenbach, and others have examined some evidence of this case and found it trustworthy.

So what prevented winning victory? The lack of another absolutely essential factor -- adequate financing. Mary Green, Janice Carter Coy, and Will Duncan supplied us with enough information to arouse our keen interest in the Tennessee habituation case. So we managed to gather and invest just enough money for Igor Bourtsev to fly to America, reach the Carter farm and, thanks to American hospitality, study the case on the spot for five weeks. Having spent all his money, he had reluctantly to leave for home. He did not see Bigfoot - the time was not long enough for that - but he saw their tracks, made a cast of one, saw their tree "markers", their sleeping nest and found their hairs. A Russian exploring and collecting BF evidence in America is another legitimate marvel of the current situation.

I informed two famous primatologists about the Carter farm case and appealed to leading BF researchers to try and raise funds in order to continue research on the spot. All in vain. Most BF researchers take this case for an illegitimate and therefore unbelievable marvel. And this because they don't realize how closely homins, including Bigfoot, are related to humans.

Pressed with financial problems, Janice has now sold her "haunted" farm. If this means that the best habituation chance is lost forever, the blame is tobe placed squarely at the door of the BF community. Some consolation is in the fact that there are other, still cryptic, spots of BF habituation in North America.

I believe hominology could become a full-fledged science even before coming into possession of a hard proof. What could make it would be a regular flow of photographic evidence, resulting from the habituation, and a scientific journal of hominology, one on a par with CRYPTOZOOLOGY. Both conditions would require a sufficient investment of money. Knowledge monopolies and research cartels of academic science will never offer us a helping hand. So I keep daydreaming of meeting and winning over a Tom Slick of the 21st century. (For young researchers: Tom Slick of the 20th century was a Texas millionaire who financed Yeti expeditions in Nepal and the first BF expedition in N.A). |See the book, Tom Slick: True Life Encounters in Cryptozoology, Fresno: Linden Press, 2002, for more details. - LC|

The crying contradiction between hominology's ever expanding database and ever missing money base is becoming ever more unbearable. This is truly an illegitimate marvel. Let's think all together how to get rid of this depressing condition.

Dmitri Bayanov, International Center of Hominology, Moscow, Russia

* The Oregonian, Sasquatch comedy filming in Oregon, Location shooting by the creators of "Napoleon Dynamite" will continue through early July Monday, June 13, 2005 STEVEN AMICK

The Hollywood team that created last year's offbeat hit "Napoleon Dynamite" chose the Portland area to film a comedy about a Bigfoot hunter to be released next spring. Producers of "The Sasquatch Dumpling Gang" filmed this month in Oregon City, Gladstone, Estacada and West Linn. They will continue working in Oregon until shortly after July Fourth. The movie, written and directed by Tim Skousen and produced by Jeremy Coon, follows a group of young friends who discover large footprints in the woods. Carl Weathers, ("Arrested Development," "Predator," "Rocky") plays Dr. Artimus Snodgrass, a world-famous Sasquatch expert trying to determine whether the prints are Bigfoot tracks. During a break in Friday's filming at Mary S. Young State Park in West Linn, Weathers said it feels good to be back in the Northwest. For a decade before he moved last year to Venice, Calif., the former Oakland Raiders football player lived and raised cattle on Washington's Whidbey Island. "I appreciate the beauty and serenity of the woods here," said Weathers, 57. "Also, Portland is a magnificent city. Since I was first here, in the mid-'70s, it's been transformed; the culture, the diversity, the architecture." Bob Schmaling, project manager for the Oregon Film and Video Office, said "The Sasquatch Dumpling Gang" is a relatively low-budget motion picture. "They'll spend under a million dollars in Oregon," Schmaling said. Much of that money, however, is providing jobs for Oregonians. About half of the 60 or so members of the principal cast, as well as about 500 extras, are local. Actors Justin Long and Joey Kern enjoyed an evening along Portland's Northwest 23rd Avenue on Thursday night. "Joey and I both lived in New York for a long time," Long said, "and parts of downtown Portland are very much like New York." Kern nodded. "People here," he said, "are a lot more alternative than I thought." Steven Amick: 503-294-5915; stevenamick@news.oregonian.com

* Open Spaces, Jun 15, 2005
Bigfoot by Robert Sullivan

Among those who believe that such a thing as the Sasquatch exists, there is general agreement that the creature probably stands between seven and ten feet tall, weighs between a thousand and two thousand pounds, has elongated arms, is covered with either black or auburn hair (depending on the season), and often walks scores of miles a day on feet that may be as long as twenty-two inches-this last and most prominent physical characteristic having spawned the lay term for the beast, Bigfoot. Field Guide to the Sasquatch, a handbook by David George Gordon, a marine biologist, describes the typical Sasquatch as "generally reclusive and shy" and suggests that it is omnivorous, much like a bear. Like many Sasquatch reference books, the field guide also suggests that the Sasquatch may have evolved from the Peking Man or some other prehuman anthropod in an evolutionary path that has led to a point somewhere between the orangutan and the human, and that its most likely habitat is the forests of the Pacific Northwest. (Sasquatch sightings have

been reported in every state except Hawaii.) But almost every other detail about the creature-whether it is nocturnal or diurnal, passive or aggressive, lives alone or in groups-is disputed by the people who regularly hunt for the Sasquatch. They also argue over whether a specimen should be killed and studied or whether the Sasquatch should be treated as an endangered species and simply photographed in the wild and left alone.

In the same way that it is impossible to say precisely how many, if any, Sasquatch there are in the millions of acres of forests in the Pacific Northwest, it is also impossible to say exactly how many people are searching for them. There are a few prominent investigators: Peter Byrne, a flamboyant former R.A.F. pilot and African safari guide, who now runs the Bigfoot Research Project on Mount Hood, in Oregon; Cliff Crook, a mild-mannered gardener who is the executive director of suburban Seattle's Bigfoot Central, the "nonprofit foundation for the preservation of the Sasquatch"; and Rene Dahinden, a tenacious sixty-seven-year-old who works out of a camper that in off weeks he parks on the grounds of a Vancouver, British Columbia gun club. And there is also any number of investigators who work anonymously in the woods on their own. It is thought that most " believers," to use their term, tend to attach themselves to the group that invariably forms around a particular region's best-known figure; these groups then become like little tribes dotting the wilderness of the Cascades and the Coast Range mountains through Northern California all the way into southern Alaska. Investigators are known to have established several twenty-four-hour Bigfoot hotlines, one of which is toll-free, and another which uses a fifteen-page hoax-detection questionnaire. They have identified the golden-mantled ground squirrel as a prime Sasquatch food source, and they have helped establish protection ordinances like the one in Skamania County, Washington, which, should it ever be invoked, will impose a ten thousand dollar fine or up to five years in jail on anyone caught killing or injuring a Sasquatch. Most likely, the ranks of Bigfoot investigators alternatively swell and thin, in the manner of a self-regulating herd, as someone either supposes that he has spotted the beast or any of its telltale signs and, as a result, joins the hunt or loses hope and quits after months, or years, or even decades, without any sign of it at all.

Even the total number of Sasquatch sightings is unknown. This is partly because word of a sighting often goes directly to the local investigator and his allies, who are unlikely to share their information with other groups. And the interest of local newspapers in the ongoing Sasquatch investigation fluctuates over time. The most recent high point began in the early eighties with a wave of reported sightings and culminated in 1987, with the release of Harry and the Hendersons-a film that many investigators, even though some of them had consulted on it, felt trivialized the phenomenon. To date, the closest anyone has come to what Bigfoot researchers refer to as "a geo-time pattern" is in postulating that the number of sightings in a given area increases in direct proportion to the number of campers that happen to be there. At the moment, there is a feeling among some investigators that the quality of reports may be declining, because of an overall lack of training and standards. "The Sasquatch at this point is the side issue," Ren Dahinden says, in his thick Swiss-German accent. "The driving force is the people and their egos, their personalities. The good ones, they are in it totally, because in this business you can't be in it part-time. You have to be in it totally and above everything. The bad ones, they are the rejects from the U.F.O. field."

There is plenty of evidence that Bigfoot exists-if you have faith in the evidence. Thousands of footprints have been turning up all over the Northwest since it was first settled, when Indians began describing them in legends. In 1811, David Thompson, the Northwest's first white explorer, described such a footprint in his journals. There are numerous feces samples, which investigators tend to keep in Zip-Lock storage bags, and there are many hair samples. One man in Eastern Washington discovered what he maintains is a Sasquatch nest-a mass of sticks and twigs tangled with reddish-brown hair and doused with a putrid stench, which is said to be the creature's trademark; he keeps it tucked away in his basement. After sifting through hundreds of plaster casts of footprints and talking to scores of eyewitnesses, Grover Krantz, an anthropology professor at Washington State University, in Pullman, has hypothesized a possible Sasquatch skeletal structure and has given it the scientific name Gigantopithecus blakii. But the best-known and most controversial piece of evidence for the existence of the Sasquatch remains what experts refer to simply as the Patterson film, a 16-mm. movie taken in 1967 by Roger Patterson, a part-time rodeo cowboy from Yakima, Washington, and Robert E. Gimlin, Patterson's friend, in Northern California along Bluff Creek. In a few blurry, over-exposed seconds of color film, a large, hairy female (its "pendulous breasts" are invariably referred to in studies of the film) lumbers along the creek and into the dark of the woods. The Disney film studio once examined the film ("If it is a fake, then it is a masterpiece," a technician was quoted by a Sasquatch investigator as saying); books have been written about it; and it is shown religiously at Bigfoot-related gatherings or events. Over the past twenty-five years, the Patterson film has become the Zapruder film of Bigfoot hunting-obvious proof of a fur-suited hoax for those who don't believe, and incentive to press on with the search for those who do. The film and its considerable royalties have also been at the center of numerous lawsuits, with as many as seven different people claiming that Patterson sold them sole ownership rights while on his deathbed.

In fact, the dark side of the Bigfoot hunt-the bitter disputes that obsess the investigators as they proceed on their quest-may be its single most tangible aspect. In a recent letter to Ray Crowe, the president and founder of the Portland-based Western Bigfoot Society, Peter Byrne said, "There are a number of rivalries in the Bigfoot field. Their principal basis is of course the belief that at the end of the Bigfoot rainbow there lies a pot of gold. ...[h]ad they over the years projected a fraction of the time and money that they spend vilifying each other on Bigfoot research [they] would surely have solved the mystery by now." And not long ago Professor Krantz told me, "You have to watch out, because there's a lot of backstabbing."

In many ways, the Western Bigfoot Society is typical of the Northwest's numerous grass-roots Bigfoot organizations. It counts about forty people as members and meets on the last Thursday of every month in the basement of Ray Crowe's store, Ray's Used Books, just outside Portland, Oregon. Ray has decorated the meeting room with a mixture of large footprint casts, oddly twisted willow branches, a 21.6 cm. strand of cinnamon-colored hair, maps of nearby wilderness areas, with pins marking recent Bigfoot sightings, and tabloid headlines that the group finds humorous ("Beautiful Women Help to Lure Bigfoot," reads one. "Sasquatch Likes to Study the Ladies."). Lately, Ray has taken to putting up photos from the group's occasional field trips, like the one to the nearby Primate Research Center, in Beaverton, Oregon, or the one to the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant, in Rainier, Oregon, where Ray thinks the buzz of the power lines may act as a lure.

In the past, speakers at the meetings have included a dog trainer, who addressed Bigfoot's fear of dogs (a phenomenon often mentioned at Ray's meetings); a member of a local search-and-rescue team, who said that the media had neglected to mention that a three-year-old boy whom he rescued in the summer of 1989 from the forests around Mount Hood had credited a "large hairy man" for keeping him company during the long night; and a former paramilitary officer with the National Security Agency, who, on a top-secret mission somewhere in the rainforests of Mato Grosso, Brazil, photographed what he now thinks must have been a Sasquatch, only to have the film confiscated by higher-ups. On one occasion Ray even invited a U.F.O. expert who is a vocal proponent of the theory that Sasquatches have come from another world-a postulate that the W.B.S. as a group opposes. "They may be full of poop," Ray said, "but I figure I might as well let them have their say."

Like most part-time Bigfoot investigators, Ray, who is now fifty-five, got into Bigfoot hunting by accident; he was doing research for a novel that included a Sasquatch rape scene and then decided to research the Sasquatch beyond the scope of the book. Shortly afterward, in 1991, he founded the W.B.S., and then began The Track Record, a monthly newsletter containing Bigfoot gossip, inspirational quotes, and the latest sighting information people have related to Ray. Once in a while, Ray publishes letters, like the one that Erik Beckjord, director of the U.F.O. & Bigfoot Museum, in Malibu, California, sent him, which complimented the W.B.O.'s work, or the letter that Ray himself sent to the United States Forest Service, citing the Freedom of Information Act and demanding to see the Mount Hood National Forest rangers' Bigfoot log book, if it exists. (Ray thinks the rangers may keep a log of Bigfoot sightings.) A few years ago, on a spring evening, Ray had his first Sasquatch "experience," as he calls it, which began when he accidentally scared an elk away from his camp, at the end of an old logging road. "I was getting ready for dinner and while I'm standing there I hear what sounded like these two giant birds arguing," he told me. "I say arguing, but they were chattering, really. And, anyway, I just assume that they were two Bigfoot, just arguing with each other-p.o'd at me for losing their elk for dinner." (Note: Sullivan visited my book shop 12 years ago and did a long article for the Oregonian newspaper...the shop is now sold and I'm 67, Ray)

Sasquatch Investigations

Report Sightings To

Bill Brann

Corner of Yole & Mountain View
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
USA

Phone: 518-747-9134

SASQUATCH NORTHWEST
AE 05

René Dahinden, who is some- times called the giant of the Sasquatch field, has a résumé that is almost a history of modern Sasquatch investigations. He began in 1956, shortly after he arrived in Canada from his native Switzerland, during what is sometimes called the golden age of Sasquatch hunting. After the Patterson film was taken, he spent several months examining the scene of the shoot. His first full-time Sasquatch work was in 1960, as a member of the fabled Pacific Northwest Expedition, financed by Tom Slick, a Texas oil-airline-and-ranch magnate who also financed the American Yeti Expedition in the Himal-ayas and who died in a plane crash that some Bigfoot investigators believe was mysterious (Slick was said to have been on the verge of the secret of the Yeti). Since then, Dahinden has never stopped investigating-supporting himself financially in part with the interest in the Patterson film that he bought from Patterson's widow, with royalties from his book, Sasquatch, and by working at the Vancouver Gun Club in Richmond, British Columbia. Barbara Wasson, in her book Sasquatch Apparitions: A Critique on the Pacific Northwest Hominid, said of Dahinden: "Ren walks as he lives, securely, energy pervading each step, generating a rich supply of drive and magnetism. He either attracts or repels others, as he sees fit. He seduces admiration from the majority of people, enemy as well as friend, or lashes out to win, where necessary, and to determine realities. Dahinden can cope with a rain soaked floor tarp, though he hates it, in the interior wilds of British Columbia or a formal academic gathering. He does this by being himself at all times, honest, realistically critical, at ease with others, and always challenging. He dresses in dirty torn clothing, shoveling gunshot from peat fields for hours, at home in mud-soaked trousers and sweat; or in clean pressed casual attire, neat and attractive, an eye appeal for females, fresh cologne radiating from a ruddy, scrubbed unwhiskered face."

Though he has never seen a Sasquatch himself, René Dahinden is said to have one of the most extensive Sasquatch files in the world, which includes tape recordings of conversations with thousands of people all over the Northwest who have seen a Bigfoot in the past century or so. It is also said to include information regarding all those people and regarding other investigators who talked to the people who say they saw a Bigfoot. "If a guy is in the newspaper, let's say, with a sighting or something like this, then we look at him," Dahinden says, pronouncing his 'w's as 'v's "We know all about him. We tape conversations. We listen. We have rooms full of files. Probably ninety-nine per cent of the people we are dealing with, we have them on file. We cover the whole of North America. The F.B.I., the C.I.A.-they have nothing on us." Dahinden prides himself on the files concerning two rival investigators, Peter Byrne and Grover Krantz. Regarding Krantz's most recent book, Big Foot Prints: A Scientific Inquiry into the Reality of Sasquatch, Dahinden told me, "Not to be nasty, but it's the worst book ever written."

One evening, at a Bigfoot festival in the foothills of Mount St. Helens in Washington, Dahinden talked mostly about investigators; he was particularly upset about the way one recent sighting had been handled. "What was it, last year?" he asked. "We had three kids, I think. Saw one of the things out on a lake. And here's the investigator asking how big was his eyes! You don't ask how big was the eyes. He was across the lake, for Christ's sakes! What kind of a silly question is that?" The next morning he gave me a tour of the converted Ford van he uses as a base for field research. It has a tired green cabin on the back of it and is equipped with a wood-burning stove, an inlaid map table that came from an old McDonald's, and a gun rack that holds a rifle, two cameras with telephoto lenses and automatic advance mechanisms, a video camera, and a simple point-and-shoot camera.

After the tour, Dahinden sat on his bunk, lit his pipe, and talked to me about his thirty-seven years in the field. He wore old khakis, a frayed work shirt, and camp sneakers, and the autobiography of Lee Iacocca lay half read on his pillow; he looked like a tired field marshal, and he spoke as if he were more concerned with the aftereffects of a significant Sasquatch discovery than about actually finding one. "I'm afraid what will happen if the Sasquatch is found by me or somebody else is that the people with the so-called brains and logic, the scientific community, will-knowing what I know about human nature-the government will go to the scientists who rejected this totally with us, the ones who know nothing about the Sasquatch, and they would reinvent the goddamned wheel," he said. "Guys like me who have collected ten thousand bits and pieces of information would be shoved aside. In Canada, they would spend six million just to decide what to do. But I already know what to do." He banged on his bunk. "Of course I want to be the guy who finds the Sasquatch! Oh yeah-glory, fame, everything I can wring out of it. But, more than that, I'd like to take the scientific community and beat the shit out of it. Of course, the older I get, the more I realize that's just a pipe dream."

When we finished talking, Dahinden marched out of the cabin and across the campground, his chin in the air and his notes shoved under his arm like a riding crop. A crowd was assembling near a makeshift stage. Footprint casts were scattered across a long table, and the people shared blurry photos and details of recent sightings. At the center of the exhibit,

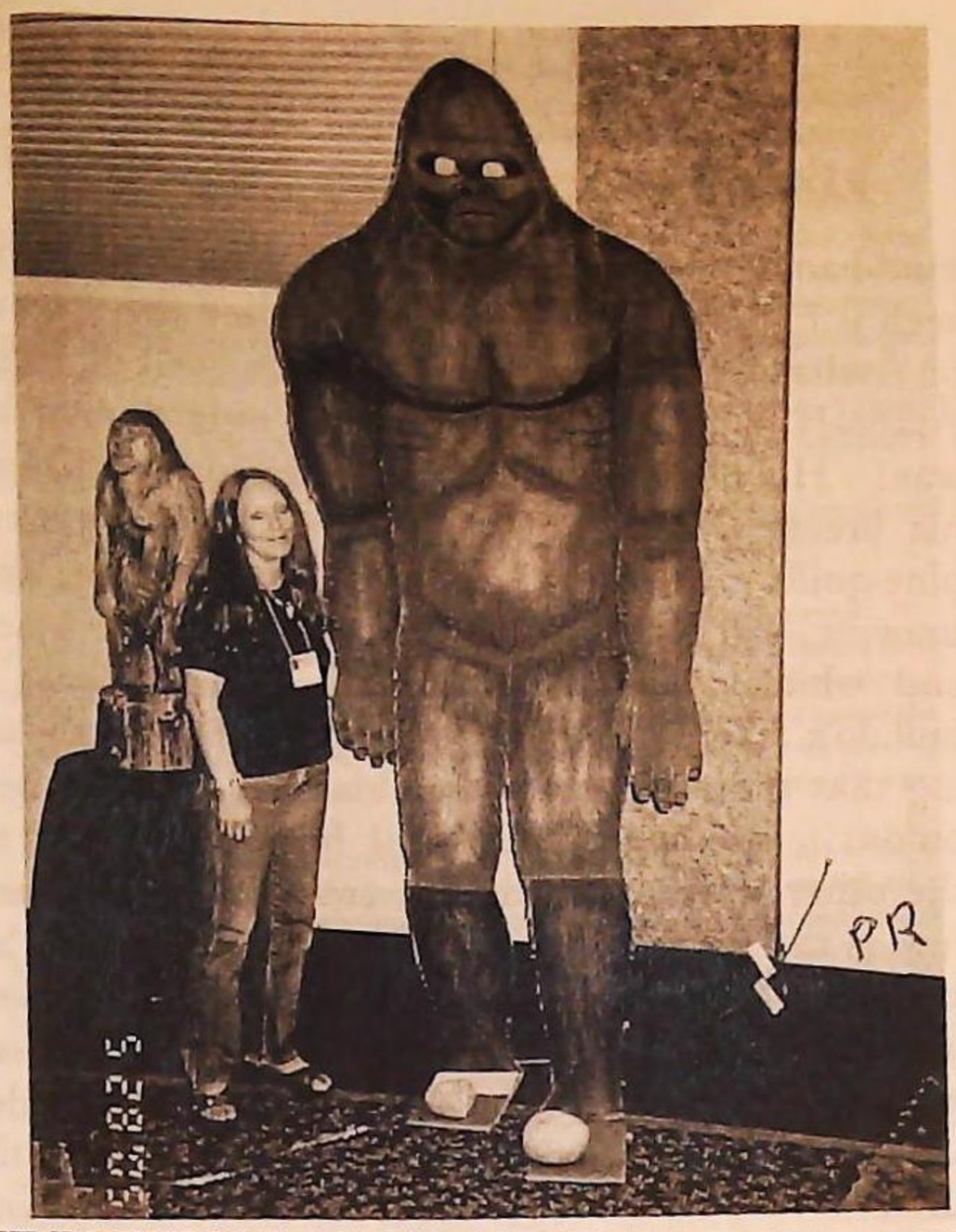
SCOTT WHITE OF GRENOBLE SENDS CD
OF XVI CENTURY LIVRE D'HEURES BIBLIOTHEQUE
MUNICIPAL DE GRENOBLE, A PRAYER BOOK WITH
MULTIPLE WILDMAN IMAGES. WRITE FOR A COPY

centered on a table draped with white paper, the Patterson film played over and over on a small video screen. Soon, Dahinden approached Datus Perry, an old man with long white hair and a long white beard who works in kitchen-waste recycling and, possibly because of this (he often smells of lard), claims to have a knack for Sasquatch sightings. (At that time, Perry had logged approximately a dozen sightings, mostly while burying explosives in lava caves with his wife.) Perry's let-them-come-to-you approach is completely opposed to Dahinden's head-on investigative style. To make things worse, Perry had set up several life-sized cardboard Bigfoot cutouts, which are much too pointy-headed for most investigator's tastes. "You're a disgrace!" Dahinden said to Perry.

"You ain't never seen one!" Perry snarled back. "And you never will if you keep on smoking that pipe!"

In the halls of academia, Bigfoot-related research is often discriminated against and lumped in a huge category that includes research on aliens and the Bermuda Triangle. The publications that give it the most coverage tend to be sold in supermarket checkout lines; as a rule, Sasquatch research grants are hard to come by. Grover Krantz knows this firsthand. For a long time, there was a professor on the academic review board of Washington State University who was a nonbeliever, and until that professor retired, in the late seventies, Krantz was consistently denied tenure in the department of anthropology. Krantz ran into similar public-relations trouble a few years later, when the public at large heard about his controversial proposal to kill a Sasquatch specimen ("[B]e absolutely certain the quarry is not a human being," he warned in one paper). The school switchboard was flooded with calls suggesting that Krantz be taken as a specimen too.

Usually, however, as the author of some of the first scholarly anthropological studies to deal with Sasquatch skeletal structure - Anatomy of the Sasquatch Foot, Additional Notes on the Sasquatch Foot, and Sasquatch Handprints-Krantz has received the critical attention he deserves: He was a keynote speaker at the last international Sasquatch conference, once appeared on the Merv Griffin Show, and, because of his credentials, shows up in newspapers all over the Northwest whenever there is a Sasquatch sighting. Grover Krantz is not known for his field work, but he may still complete construction on an ultralight helicopter that he keeps under a tarp in his driveway. He has already spent nearly



PATT REINHOLD AT BELLINGHAM (NOTE, MOST OF FOLLIWING PHOTOS BY HER AT BELLINGHAM)

the helicopter. He plans to use it to search the woods for a freshly decomposing Sasquatch corpse during the spring thaw. "The scientific community is always saying give us more serious scientific evidence, more dermal ridges, but it's left to the rugged individual to go out and do the research," he says.

Lately Krantz has been receiving criticism from the other side. Several Bigfoot investigation groups insist that one of his main suppliers of Bigfoot footprint casts-Paul Freeman, a lone-wolf investigator in Walla Walla, Washington-is a hoaxer. Before meeting Krantz, I drove into Walla Walla, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, to see Freeman's evidence first hand. When I arrived at Freeman's house, he was having a yard sale. In 1989, Freeman was fired from the forest service for talking too much about Bigfoot, and he has supported himself since with frequent yard sales, part-time managing of a mobile home park, and the occasional Bigfoot presentation at local malls. He and his family have had to move several times, because of ridicule. He has also suffered physically, and, a few years ago, broke the arch in his foot while hunting in the woods. Last April, he managed to videotape one of his sightings, though the tape was blurry, because in the excitement he forgot to push the zoom button. When I last spoke with him, he was waiting to hear from Scotland Yard about some hair and feces samples he had sent them and to have the video tape computer enhanced. In its current state, the video mostly shows-except for a tiny blur at the dark edge of a clearing-the floor of Freeman's truck as he wrestles with the door; on the sound track Freeman, out of breath, whispers, "Goddamn, there it is! I've been waiting for this son of a bitch! This is it for sure!"

In his garage, Freeman showed me the dozens of footprint casts and odoriferous hair samples that he keeps on hand. (He keeps the remainder of his collection in various rented storage spaces throughout the Walla Walla area.) He also showed me two life-size Sasquatch replicas he had a sculptor at nearby Whitman College build to his specifications. "The lady who made them, she put the wrong eyes in it, but I'm having new ones made," Freeman said. The female had noticeably large breasts, just like the female in the Patterson film, and she was roughly Freeman's size. "You could fall in love with her," he said.

During the garage sale, we discussed the competition among Bigfoot experts. "I'll tell you, it's impossible to prove by yourself anyway, but the people looking are cutting each other's throats," he said. "I always wonder, Why can't we work together? I mean, we're a special little group of people, all of us trying to prove this animal exists. Myself, I just keep plugging along, figuring I might get some real good video someday, but I don't have to prove anything to anybody. My son's seen it, so now we just live with it, though I guess I'd love to see the thing protected. It's one of the greatest mysteries in the world and I'm just glad to be a part of it."

A few summers ago, there was a sighting on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in Spalding, Idaho, just across the Washington border, in the foothills of the Bitteroot Mountains, and Professor Krantz drove there in a minivan with some plaster-of-Paris for footprint casting and two anthropology graduate students-Mark, twenty-eight, who had seen the Patterson film sixteen times, and Markku, thirty-one, a former soldier from Finland. I had arrived in Krantz's office moments after the sighting had been called into him, and I persuaded him to let me come along. When we pulled into the parking lot of the Nez Perce National Historic Park, there were several people speaking to the local newspaper reporter and to Don Tyler, chairman of the anthropological department at the University of Idaho. Tyler had already briefed Krantz by phone on the character of the witnesses, so Krantz, lurched over, lit a cigarette, and immediately began nonchalantly interviewing them. All at once, they pointed to the top of a hill overlooking the Clearwater River. A few minutes later, a man pulled up, jumped out of his car, and ripped open some pictures that he'd just developed. "These will prove it," an old woman said. There were several photographs of the hill showing a fuzzy little black dot. Krantz didn't flinch. "You wouldn't expect it to be very good without a telephoto lens," he said.

Walking up the hill, Krantz was optimistic. "If it's a big bugger, it could weigh up to a thousand pounds," he said. Suddenly, Markku shouted out. He kneeled and pointed at some tracks. "Its stride is one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty centimeters," he said.

"O.K.," Krantz said. "Could be an adult female or a young male, and it would have roughly the same length of step as the creature in the Patterson film. So far, though, I can't rule out human feet." he continued pacing the hill, tracking his own thirteen-inch feet along the way. "You could fake it, but it's hard," he said. "Also, if it was a fake you would have better pictures." Somebody spotted a dead cow on the next hill, and Krantz found the imprint of a horse's hoof. Then, Mark dis- covered another set of tracks. Krantz shouted, "O.K., here we go! This is the real thing. It's a little tight-only thirty-four inches in the stride-but it's real."

Wrapping up the investigation with some notes and a few more interviews, Krantz went back to the parking lot to thank the other witnesses, leaving a plaster cast of a Patterson footprint as a combination thank you-business card. I followed him to a gas station for Cokes and analysis. It would be lost and looking for a place to settle," he theorized. "It may be a young Sasquatch looking for a territory of its own, or being driven away by a forest fire down south. It's just a pity there was nothing good enough to cast." He added, "You've come a hell of a lot closer to one than most people. You've seen what most certainly was a Sasquatch."

When it comes to deciding exactly where to encounter aSasquatch face-to-face, Cliff Crook prefers the forests around Mount Rainier. Every year, around Labor Day weekend, he drives there from his home, outside Seattle, and spends a few days looking around and just waiting. There have been a couple of what he considers quality sightings near Rainier over the past few years-one by a group of mushroom pickers along the banks of the Nisqually River, the other by a group of people staying at a lodge just outside the western entrance of Mount Rainier National Park, both around Labor Day weekend. "I don't know what it is; I just like it up there," Cliff says.

In contrast to, say, the Pacific Coast Sasquatch Investigation Unit, who consider the woods so many topographical quadrants to conquer, Cliff is more of a Zen Sasquatch hunter: he tries to get in touch with the Sasquatch's woods. Unlike Ren Dahinden, say, Cliff does not carry a gun. He says this is because when he first encountered a Sasquatch, as a young boy, he was struck by the Sasquatch's apparent dislike of acts of violence. When a boy he was with threw sticks at the Sasquatch, it responded by saying, "Argar largar," which Cliff translates to mean, "Don't do that again." Since then, Cliff has become protective of Bigfoot-so much so that when I asked him exactly where around Mount Rainier he was like -ly to be before Labor Day, he was politely cryptic. Nevertheless, I had an idea of where to find him, and I knew I'd recognize his old maroon Datsun, with the "i brake for bigfoot" bumper sticker. So, on a fall weekend, just before Labor Day, I packed up a tent and went searching for Cliff while he was searching for Bigfoot.

After looking in vain for a few hours at various trailheads and at the lodge Cliff investigated last year ("I really thought it was just a bear," the owner remembered. "But then I heard that combination bear-growl and pig-snort that Cliff tells me they make"), I finally picked a trail whose terrain closely matched all that Cliff had told me about his favorite investigation areas. I had never gone camping in the woods alone before, and as I walked my first mile I realized how difficult it was going to be to find Cliff in such dense forest. I began in a low, marshy area, gurgling with little streams, and dark with towering Douglas fir. I climbed a long hill to drier ground, and, in a while, splintered redwood spilled onto the trail like hot coals. Gory, bulbous growths sprouted from the sides of lodgepole pine trees, and ferns and vines invaded the dark-green horizon.

I was looking for what I thought Cliff would be looking for-tracks, large piles of scat, and branches twisted at heights of seven feet and up-when I thought I heard a sound. I grabbed my binoculars but saw nothing. A

second later, a golden-mantled ground squirrel jumped out of nowhere to scare the hell out of me. In an hour, dusk was on its way and I had seen only two other campers, both heading off the mountain. I crossed Kautz Creek, which was roaring with glacial runoff. On the other side, in the sandy bank, I lingered over the imprint of a single large boot.

At around five in the afternoon, as I started up yet another hill, the trail began to follow a creek called Devil's Dream. In a few hundred feet, the creek dropped suddenly from the trail and into a dark ravine so deep I couldn't see the bottom. I kicked a rock, watched it fall off into blackness, and heard it land many seconds later with a crack! At that instant, I realized that these steep cliffs and the nearby water and the texture of the woods made this just the kind of place Cliff believes to be a prime Sasquatch investigation area. I set up a tent nearby, made dinner and had a beer. Above me, in and out of clouds, the glaciered pinnacle of Rainier appeared like an apparition in the cracks of the ceiling of trees; there was a little less than half a moon. By now resigned to not finding Cliff, I tried to lose myself in my field guide to wildflowers, but it was too dark, and I was getting nervous, so I zipped up the tent flap and hoped for rest.

At 1:20, I awoke from a light sleep absolutely convinced that something was breathing outside my tent. By 2, motionless except for a pounding heart, I was debating two escape strategies: (1) curling up in a ball or (2) screaming and running down the hill to the ranger station. I think it was about 3 when I found the courage to look carefully outside with my flashlight. I scanned the face of the darkness, startling single trees. Daylight was still far away, and I knew at this point that I could never cut it as a Bigfoot investigator. At last, near dawn, looking flashlight-less out my tent, I saw it-staring at me and standing completely still about fifty feet from my camp. As more light fell, I realized that it was a man, and then that it was a man I knew, and then, though I knew it couldn't possibly be possible, that it was the statue of Father Duffy, three thousand miles away in New York's Times Square. At around 5 a.m., I took a big gulp and watched the cold gray face of Father Duffy melt into the decaying corpse of a weathered old pine.

After I was home, I got a call from Cliff. He said that I was pretty close to where he had been that night, and he asked if I'd seen the cougar roaming around. He was upbeat, having just wrapped up an investigation: he had successfully linked a set of tracks that he'd initially thought to be those of a female Sasquatch to a hermit who lives in the woods outside of Seattle and is known as the Ice Man because he walks barefoot through ponds and streams in the winter. The next day I got a call from René Dahinden who had some information on the sighting that Grover Krantz had taken me to in Idaho. "It was a fake," he said. "I heard from a guy in L.A. that it was just a man in a suit." He added, "As a group, we know nothing about Krantz as a person. We know nothing about his upbringing. I would like to know about his father. You know, how many brothers, how many sisters, some background-because I'll tell you, he certainly has a problem trying to be somebody."

A few days later, I talked to Ray Crowe, who seemed to be having a little bit of a crisis. "I don't know if you've thought it through," he said, "but if you were running this whole thing as a business and if after twenty-five years you didn't have any results, then you'd begin to chop heads. So I'm assuming what they've all done before me is wrong. They go to these sightings and investigate them and they want to study the people who saw it, put 'em through the lie detector. But I'm thinking that maybe you're better off sitting up on a lonely ridge waiting and looking. I don't know, I'm just looking to break away. I only wish I could make more damn money on the whole thing. I think I made thirteen dollars and fifty cents last night and it cost twelve dollars to rent the extra chairs."

The reason for extra chairs was a speaker named Jim Hewkin, a retired wildlife biologist for the state of Oregon. When Hewkin spoke, he jumped over the proof part of the Sasquatch issue and right into Sasquatch habits, the way W.B.O. members like their speakers to. "We don't know much but we're beginning to draw pictures," he said, "and we've started to frame out something that a Bigfoot is like. We're probably looking at ourselves about four million years ago, living off the land with no tools, probably talking about the Dark Ages. And then we changed in one direction, and the Bigfoot kept going back into the rough country and living off the land in the roughest kind of habitat there is. And it makes you think again: Well why? Must have been man that caused that. Probably a lot of friction between man and Bigfoot in those days and he just spread out. I'm getting into the kind of scientific part where archaeologists and people who study this, the past, should be, but today we have to look at all the animals there are that we know and find all the evidence there is that's logical, true, factual, listen to anybody that has anything to say, separate the wheat from the chaff. There's a lot of chaff. And don't let your imagination go too wild when you're out there alone, looking around for signs. You think you'll find a sign. You hope you find a sign, and maybe you do."

Postscript; Since I researched this story, a few years ago, there have been numerous possible sightings of Bigfoot and some more possible tracks but no definitive finds. In addition, the cast of hunters and Bigfoot enthusiasts has changed somewhat. Ray Crowe has sold his bookstore and closed up his museum, though he still publishes a newsletter and hopes one day to open up the museum again. Ren Dahinden still lives in British Columbia, but he is semi-retired; he continues to keep tabs on sightings in his area and to stay in contact with hunters throughout the Northwest, but he doesn't get out into the field as much. Grover Krantz remains in Walla Walla, though he hasn't been in the news much lately. I haven't heard from Cliff Crook since I last saw him near Mount Rainier. Datus Perry passed away recently, which was sad news in the Bigfoot community because even Bigfoot hunters who didn't feel his sightings were properly substantiated enjoyed seeing him and talking with him at Bigfoot events, where he was a regular.

The other day I was talking to Peter Byrne, still the most prominent Bigfoot hunter-he has searched full time for Sasquatch on several occasions, most recently for five years from a base of operations up on Mount Hood. I had last talked to him in the summer of 1997 when he had just wrapped up his Mount Hood investigation. At that point he was considering starting up another one. As it turns out, even he has downsized his operations: he still goes to check out sightings on occasion, but he is taking it easy at the moment, taking the time to write and travel. It was still early in the summer when I talked to him, but he said that in general the Bigfoot investigation field is slow at the moment. "It's been extremely quiet," he said. "There's been nothing really."

* Portland Tribune; Mount St. Helens blows away Bigfoot 25 years after major eruption, volcano is still making a mark By DON HAMILTON Issue date: Tue, May 17, 2005 The Tribune

Bigfoot almost comes as a surprise these days when he shows up on the road to Mount St. Helens.

Once, Bigfoot symbolized the deep Cascades. Images of the legendary giant creature decorated motels, restaurants, bowling alleys, bars — anything, really — trying to connect with the local mythology.

But the big guy has nearly vanished from the Southwest Washington landscape, blown away, along with everything else, in the cataclysmic eruption of Mount St. Helens that took place 25 years ago Wednesday.

The anniversary is being marked this week by appropriate ceremonies. We'll read survivor stories, remember the ash fall and hear that weird volcano lingo with phrases like "pyroclastic surge," "cryptodome" and the lyrical "harmonic tremor." We'll learn how Weyerhaeuser Co. plans its first post-eruption tree harvest and the scientific updates will tell us how the ol' volcano itself has been faring.

But harder to see under all the anniversary hoopla will be how volcano country has changed in the last 25 years. No, not the landscape. Those changes are obvious and well-documented. But with Bigfoot replaced

Zuñi Folk Tales

Átahsaia the Cannibal Demon

FRANK HAMILTON CUSHING (1857 – 1900)

"—sand-bank—there is a deep cave. You have never seen it? Well! to this day it is called the "Cave of Átahsaia," and there, in the times I tell of, lived Átahsaia himself. Uhh! what an ugly demon he was! His body was as big as the biggest elk's, and his breast was shaggy with hair as stiff as porcupine-quills. His legs and arms were long and brawny,—all covered with speckled scales of black and white. His hair was coarse and snarly as a buffalo's mane, and his eyes were so big and glaring that they popped out of his head like skinned onions. His mouth stretched from one cheek to the other and was filled with crooked fangs as yellow as thrown-away deer-bones. His lips were as red and puffy as peppers, and his face as wrinkled and rough as a piece of burnt buckskin. That was Átahsaia, who in the days of the ancients devoured men and women for his meat, and the children of men for his sweet-bread. His weapons—"

JOYCE KEARNEY FINDS 1901 DESCRIPTION OF ZUNI MONSTER IN LONG NARRATIVE.

symbolically, Mount St. Helens now dominates not just the physical terrain but the emotional and economic topography as well.

Last fall marked a curious milestone. The September and October eruptions gave those too young to remember 1980 their own firsthand Mount St. Helens experiences.

No longer was it something just in textbooks or stories told by old folks. It finally became their own volcano, and the generation that follows them probably will one day get their own as well.

The economic landscape has been hugely altered. Money follows fame, so the region is, first of all, richer than before 1980. What had been a low-key recreation industry has gone big time. In 2003, visitors spent $808 million in the five surrounding counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Yakima and Skamania, much of that attributable to Mount St. Helens. And that's up 24 percent over 1998.

"Mount St. Helens has created the ultimate ecotourism experience," said Carrie Wilkinson-Tuma, travel trade relations manager for the Washington Department of Tourism.

Spirit Lake Highway, Washington Highway 504, is a good example. It runs from Interstate 5 in Castle Rock, home to the Mount St. Helens Hotel and Mount St. Helens Cinedome, and passes by helicopter ride centers, campsites, gift shops and five volcano visitor centers before the end of the road 52 miles east at the Johnston Ridge Observatory, named for the young U.S. Geological Survey geologist, David Johnston, who died in the eruption. BBC plans show

The volcano's lure remains strong — and not just in the United States. The visitor center guest books last weekend showed tourists from all over the world, including Africa, Europe and South America. The anniversary is prompting news reports around the globe. A German TV crew visited the volcano earlier this month. The BBC is preparing what it calls a "documentary-drama."

Ron Tennison and his daughter, Jessica, from Brentwood, Calif., drove up the mountain through fog and driving rain last weekend to get a glimpse of the volcano from the Johnston Ridge Observatory. Tennison, a science and nature buff, felt a pull that was strong enough to make him take a detour while en route with his family to visit the zoo in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"Right now, we hear about all the other earthquake activity going on in California," he said. "We're getting some pretty big ones, 4.0 and more. And this is the No. 2 active volcano in the world, so I thought we'd come up here and get a look."

His daughter, a zoology major at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., shares her father's love of the outdoors and also wanted to see the volcano she'd only read about.

"I'd rather be here watching this than in some restaurant," she said. "I like it better outside."

Others felt a deeper connection. Mount St. Helens changed Catherine Hickson's life, for example. On the morning of May 18, 1980, she was an undergraduate student in geology, camping with her husband 9 miles east of the mountain. Her harrowing experience, told in her new book, "Mount St. Helens: Surviving the Stone Wind," set her on a course to become a volcanologist. She now is with the Geological Survey of Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia.

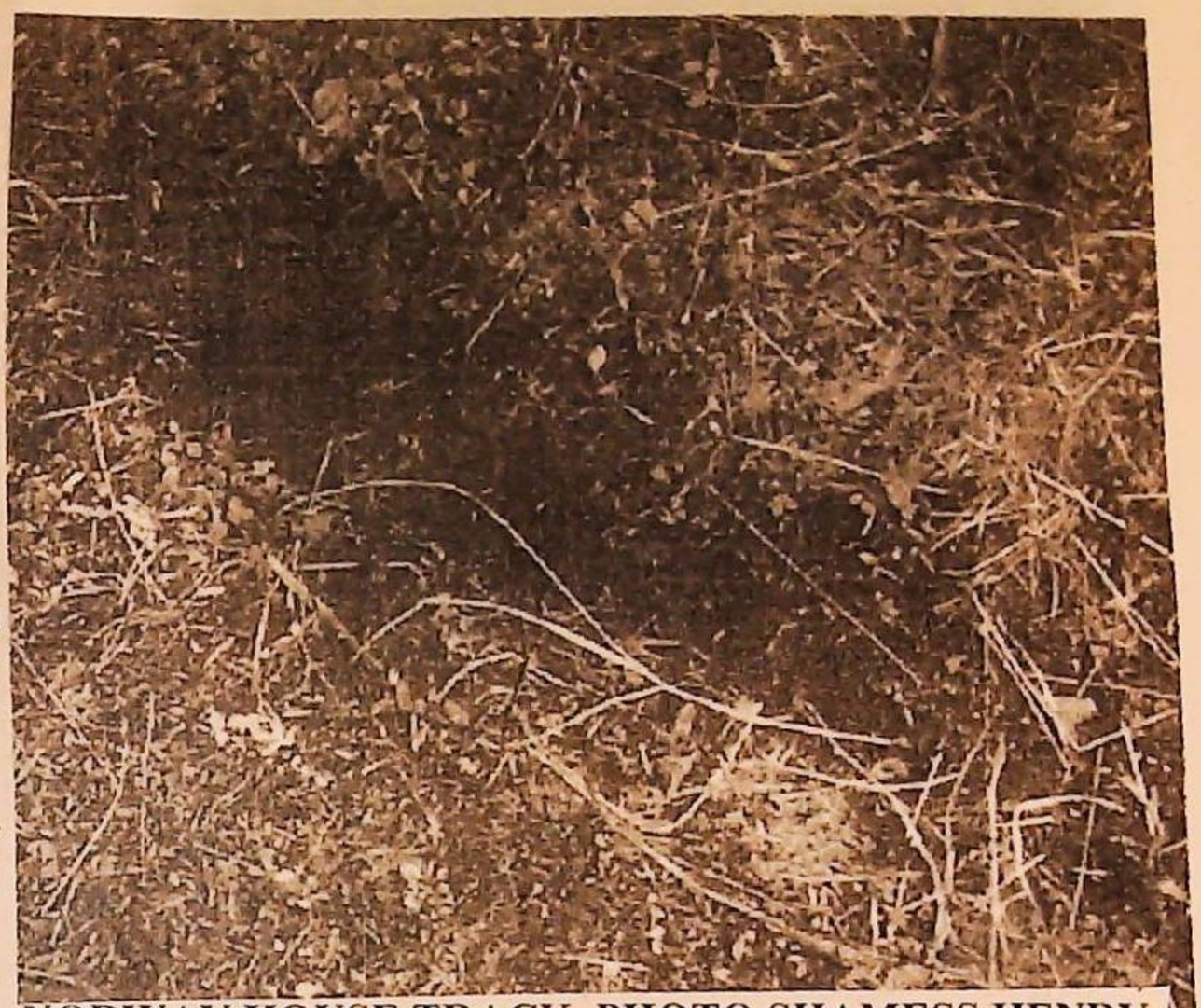
"What we've learned from Mount St. Helens in the last 25 years has been extraordinary," she said.

Susan Russell-Robinson agrees. A staff scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, she spent seven months studying Mount St. Helens on three assignments here from 1980 to 1982. She said the monitoring in place at Mount St. Helens since 1980 has given scientists tremendous abilities to forecast what's going to happen at volcanoes.

This was put to the test at Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991. Knowledge gained at Mount St. Helens prompted the evacuation of tens of thousands of people in advance of a major eruption of Pinatubo, probably saving thousands of lives, Russell-Robinson said.

Too bad the scientists at Mount St. Helens didn't know then what they know now.

"Everybody knew an eruption was coming," she said. "But there was nothing about that day that was any different than the days before. As far as we've gone, there's still so much yet to learn."



NORWAY HOUSE TRACK, PHOTO SHAMESS HENRY

* Second Bigfoot Sighting In Norway House, Manitoba: Nervous Residents Seek Answers, Offer Photos of Evidence; Posted by Annie on May 31, 2005

A second bigfoot sighting has been reported by a young girl, and her play mates in Paupanekis Point, Norway House, Manitoba, which is located on the south end of the same First Nations reserve where ferryman, Bobby Clarke, videotaped a large, dark, bipedal creature walking along the bank of the Nelsen River.

The girls were close to a residential area, which borders the woods, at around 7:30-8:00 pm on May 20, when the encounter occurred. The woods are bordered by knee high grass, which is where the creature was standing in plain view, apparently watching the children play. One of the girls fainted from fright, after seeing "a huge creature." None of the children were hurt, but they are understandably still quite shaken, and afraid to be left alone.

Immediately following the sighting, a search party was assembled to investigate the surrounding area. Footprints were found where the actual sighting occurred, as well as deeper into the woods. Several more expeditions have been conducted since, and have resulted in finding more physical evidence. The size of some of the tracks measure "larger than a man`s size 16 shoe" said one witness, and have a clearly defined outline of the toes. The tracks have been preserved, photographed, and videotaped by Norway House residents.

Hair samples have also been found at several locations, including on the inside edge of one of the footprints, and at another location, clinging to a pine tree where more tracks, and a strong lingering odor was also reported. The odor was described to be a mix between wet dog, and skunk. A witness who has collected some of the hair samples reported, "I thought they would be thick and course and black, but they look kinda longish, half black and half white and (on some) the very bottom looks almost fine and spliced up like a fine razor split the hairs into many on one single strand."

The physical evidence collected following the most recent sighting raises some interesting questions. Where as the Nelson River tracks measured 20 inches in length, with a six foot stride, in Paupanekis Point, tracks measuring 13 inches in length, as well as 20 inches have been found. Also, hair samples given to the ACA`s expedition team were dark in color, according to Cherie Curry, a member of the team, yet the hair samples found after the second sighting are half black, and half white.

Some N.H. residents have theorized that the smaller prints may belong to a juvenile, and that it has possibly wandered away from an adult/parent, which might explain the ongoing incidents surrounding Norway House, including the frequent howls coming from wooded areas close to homes. Bobby Clarke also reported hearing strange howls on several occasions preceding his sighting. Although details are still sketchy, a third encounter in which the creature is said to have returned to the same area as the second sighting, moving large rocks in it`s path has been reported. I`ll update if/when I learn more. I am also waiting for more photographs of tracks, and hair samples, which I`ll photograph, and post once they arrive. This rash of sightings is not the first in this area. In 1976, multiple sightings, spread over a length of time, were reported in Poplar River, 76 miles south of Norway House. The following is the report submitted to the Vancouver Lower Mainland Division of the RCMP, following a police investigation. Norway House RCMP Report "Norway House to Vancouver Lower Mainland Division, attention Sergeant Doane.

It was reported to our office on the 26 July 76 by the chief of the Poplar River Indian Band that many of his people have sighted on the reserve many times a large hairy animal that walks on two legs. Poplar River is located approx. 76 miles to the south of Norway House. An investigation was conducted and the results are as follows: Several people were interviewed and they all stated that the animal was approximately seven to eight feet tall and was very broad at the shoulders. It had the general

body structure of a man only many times larger. A foot cast was taken of the foot impression that was left behind by the so-called monster and is held at this detachment. It measures 16 inches by five inches, and has only three toes. It's fur is a glossy gray color and it has white hair on it's head. They stated that it was very powerfully built and one man reported that he saw it swimming. To date there have been no further reports of sightings in our area. It should be noted that this so-called monster seemed very inquisitive towards the people and would come around the houses on the settlement and look in doors and windows."- Excerpt from the 1976 RCMP Report, posted on the BFRO website.
The May 20,05 Paupanekis Point sighting follows a report, and video footage, taken of a large dark creature walking along the Nelson River, in Norway House, Manitoba on April 16, 05 by ferryman, Bobby Clarke. After the videotape was aired on A Current Affair on May 4,05, ACA sent an expedition led by Dr. Franklin Ruehl, to Norway House to look for evidence. Also on the expedition team was ACA producer Brett Hudson, and artist, singer, author Cherie Curry.

An ongoing on discussion Bigfoot, and the Norway House sightings on Blogcritics. - Participating in the discussion are members of the ACA Expedition Team, and residents of Norway House, Manitoba. To view, and/or participate, scroll down to the comments section. All are welcome to join in.

* "Craig Woolheater" ecwool@swbell.net
'Bigfoot' sighting brings investigators to Union County By Toni Walthall El Dorado (AR) News-Times; In Arkansas, when we hear talk of Bigfoot, we think of Fouke, and its highly-publicized trademark "monster".

So prevalent are sightings and stories about Miller County's Fouke monster, it was featured in its own low-budget movie, "The Legend of Boggy Creek" (and the two ensuing sequels). Though they are known by a variety of other names, these mysterious Creatures have been casually dubbed "Bigfoot," because of the abnormally large footprints found near some eye-witness sightings.

Considering that only two counties separate Miller and Union County, it may not come as a surprise that Union County has had its own share of Bigfoot sightings – the most recent being May 7, 2005.

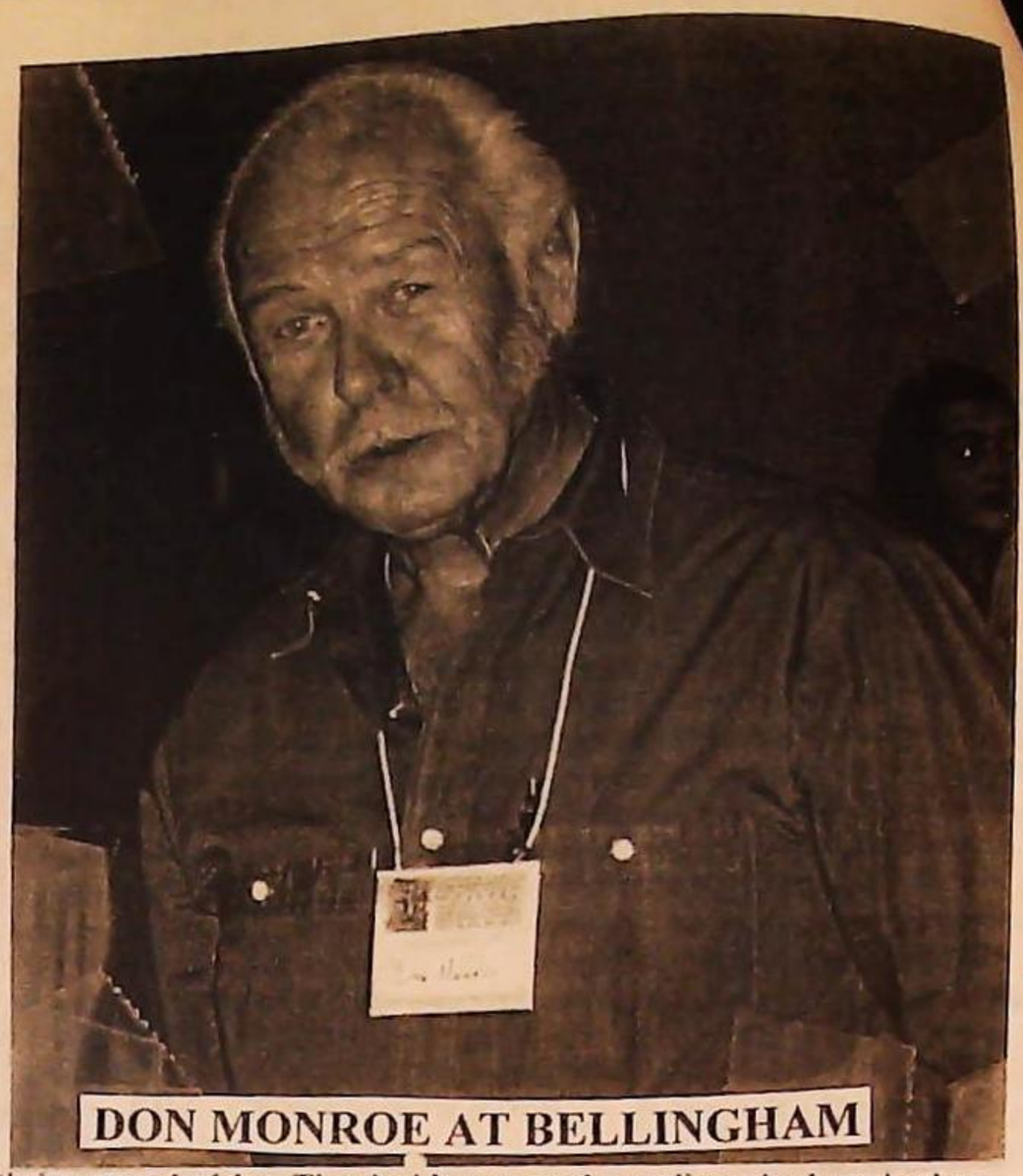
According to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (www.bfro.net) and the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Researchers Organization(www.gcbro.com) websites, Union County has had at least six submitted Bigfoot encounters. Most occurred in woodlands and bottoms along the route of U.S. 167, but several have been reported near heavily wooded timberlands along the Ouachita River north of Smackover and to the east of El Dorado near Strong.

In a report (No. 11632) posted on the BFRO website, investigators were sent to El Dorado May 9th to interview the "young man" who reported the latest encounter – and to search the site on Victor Dumas Road where the sighting allegedly occurred.

In his written submission, the unnamed man told investigators that he and a friend were parked at the end of the dead-end road, sitting on the tailgate of his truck, which was facing the woods. Happening around 8 p.m., there was just enough sunlight remaining in the day to clearly see, the witness reported. Approaching the passenger side door of his truck to retrieve his cell phone, the man said, he glanced up to see on the left side of the road a fur-covered creature about 15 yards away. "With great speed, it ran across the narrow road, and paused when it got to the other side," he stated in his account. The man said the dark, hairy creature was stocky, hunched over and walked on two feet. Standing only about 5 feet tall, the creature ran with "great speed," according to this account. The other witness, who had remained seated on the tailgate, did not see the creature, but she claims to have heard the loud noise that was made as it darted off into the woods. A strong, foul odor, said to be reminiscent of a skunk or decaying animal, is often noticed even before a sighting occurs, according to information from the websites. There was no odor associated with the Victor Dumas Road sighting, according to the report. In his initial submission, the man made reference to the unusually short stature of the hairy being and posed the question, "Do you think this may be a young sasquatch?"

Sasquatch is just one of the many names of Native American derivation used to refer to Bigfoot. The investigators' comments indicated they believed the man was "sincere." It was also noted that the young man returned to the site with friends the next day looking for any signs to verify his experience. There was no related evidence found the day of the investigation.

Looking through the databases, Arkansas has 53 documented sightings. Miller County has the most on the BFRO database, followed by Saline County. Baxter County and Union County are tied. One of the more interesting accounts recorded in Union County occurred the summer of 1975. Two boys, aged 15 and 11, were riding on a motorcycle trail in the woods around Bayou D'Loutre just off Sunset Road (before the U.S. 82 bypass was built). The two boys had ventured deep into the woods, against



DON MONROE AT BELLINGHAM

PR

their parents' wishes. They had just crossed a medium-sized creek when the oldest boy looked westward, into the sun. "I saw an 8-foot black figure staring at us behind a pine tree trunk, and then jumping behind it as though it was playing hide-and-go-seek," he wrote.

The creature was described as very thin for its stature. Its hair hung close to the body. Both boys decided it was time to leave. They jumped on their bikes and high-tailed it back the direction they had come. "I never looked behind me again, because I was near panic," the man wrote. After crossing the creek, the older boy, who was riding behind the smaller boy, started hearing the pounding of feet behind him. He claimed he could feel the vibration from the pounding of the last several steps through his handle-bars. The two peddled ever faster, as one of them saw a movement of black to his left. The two friends completed the rest of the shaky journey home without speaking.

This man also claims to have met a man from Rogers, whose best friend saw a Bigfoot in the swamps near Parkers Chapel in the late 1980s. The man recalled how the two boys had smelled horrible odors in those same piney woods and saw unusually large and peculiar piles of excrement that he couldn't link to any other animal.

In the summer of 1973, an 11-year-old boy had an encounter in Union County with something he believed to be a sasquatch. Camping with his family in the Ouachita River bottoms, near Eagle Lake, the boy volunteered to stay behind to gather fire wood, while everyone else was out catching fish for dinner. The GCBRO website account claims that something started making gibberish noises, that he said sounded like a Tibetan woman auctioneer. It was loud and fast, reverberating through the bottoms like it was a large gymnasium. It happened three times, he said. The boy, now a grown man, said he has heard panther screams, coyotes, hoot owls, wolves, alligators and bears, but he, to this day, has never heard anything like that sound again.

Perusing various related websites, one can see thousands of documented sightings from areas across the nation. Most are investigated. A large map shows specks of color dotting states across the nation – indicating places where Bigfoot encounters have happened. Audio tracks of odd howls and moans attributed to Bigfoot can be accessed on one of the sites, which also includes and audio recording of an authentic 911 call from Washington state, in which a panicked homeowner requests law enforcement after he comes face to face with one in his own backyard.

Union County is far from alone in its mysterious encounters. Investigations have been launched by reports from Columbia, Ouachita and Drew counties in South Arkansas, North Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Texas. In one GCBRO report, a Columbia County hunter shared encounters, second hand information from the past 20 years and claimed to have retrieved dark tufts of hair lodged high among broken tree limbs. In 1992, a Ouachita County woman cleaning a family cemetery, saw a tall, dark, hair-covered figure watching her from the wood line. "I stared – petrified – at the figure long enough to run through the possibilities of what it might be," she wrote in her entry. After staring at the figure "for what seemed like and eternity", the woman turned her back and accepted her fate. "None came," she wrote. "I turned back to face the thing, and it was gone. I made a hasty retreat back to my car." The woman told investigators that her mother was raised in those woods, and never heard of any such encounters.

In the late 1950s, on a hot mid-August day, three siblings saw what they recognized as a Bigfoot swimming in the pond behind their rural Drew County home. The 10-year-old brother ran back to the house to get a gun. He returned in time to fire a shot at the creature, who could stay under water for long periods of time and swim at a pretty good clip. They believed the bullet hit the target, but men, who came and searched the pond and the surrounding area after the incident could find nothing.

There have been thousands of credible eyewitness accounts of sasquatch sightings in the past 100 years according to officials at BFRO. But some reports extend back several centuries. The sites describe either sightings from a distance or close range encounters, with some describing situations where backpackers and campers have been approached at night or followed (paralleled) along a trail. Sasquatches have had many opportunities to attack humans. However, there are no modern reports of humans being injured or killed by a sasquatch. There are only two reports of violent attacks on humans and just one describes the killing of a human – a story told by President Teddy Roosevelt in his book, "The Wilderness Hunter" (1890). A chapter in Roosevelt's book recounts the story of two trappers who were stalked by a sasquatch-like animal in a remote region believed to be in present day Wyoming or Montana.

One of the trappers fired his rifle at the sasquatch, apparently missing, but the stalking continued. The trappers' camp was twice found ransacked, while the men were out checking beaver traps they had set. After the second night, the trappers decided to vacate the area. Prior to their departure, the men split up to collect their traps. One was delayed for hours; the other headed straight back to camp. His body was found by his partner later that day near the campfire. The dead man had a broken neck, which also showed teeth or claw marks – but the body was not eaten.

Retreating appears to be the typical response to humans, but occasional harassment may be related to territorial conflicts – especially in wooded areas. It's believed these creatures prey on deer, elk, raccoons, beaver, ducks and rodents. Sasquatch are also known to kill dogs that chase or threaten them. Dogs often flee or cower in their presence, but some aggressive dogs have been found torn apart, with sasquatch tracks around the remains.There aren't enough instances of humans attacking sasquatches to reliably indicate that human aggression provokes more violent behavior. Indian legend has it that Bigfoot knows when humans are searching for him. He chooses when and to whom he will make an appearance. Sasquatch's "psychic powers account for his ability to elude the white man's efforts to capture him or hunt him down." Native Americans also believe that a giant footprint signals a time to seek change. "In our way of beliefs, they make appearances at troubled times, ... to help communities get more in tune with Mother Earth," said Ralph Gray Wolf, an Athapaskan Indian from Alaska. The Hopi and Iroquois view Bigfoot as "a messenger from the Creator, trying to warn humans to change their ways or face disaster."

Hopefully, that is not the case for Union County.

* Approaching Mars

Earth and Mars will have a breathtaking close encounter in October 2005. Listen to this story via streaming audio, a downloadable file, or get help. June 6, 2005: By the time you finish reading this sentence, you'll be 25 miles closer to the planet Mars. Earth is racing toward Mars at a speed of 23,500 mph, which means the red planet is getting bigger and brighter by the minute. In October, when the two planets are closest together, Mars will outshine everything in the night sky except Venus and the Moon. (You're another 50 miles closer: keep reading!) It's only June, now, but Mars is already eye-catching. You can see it early in the morning, rising before the sun in the eastern sky, shining almost twice as bright as a 1st-magnitude star. A sky map, below, shows where to find Mars on Wednesday morning, June 29th, when it appears

* Monster Attacks Reported on Loch Ness

eMediaWire, June 20th, 2005

Last winter, at least a dozen locals living in hamlets around Loch Ness reported land sightings at night, and three families reported missing pets, according to Forensics Investigator William McDonald.

Phoenix, AZ (PRWEB) June 20, 2005 -- Last winter, at least a dozen locals living in hamlets around Loch Ness reported land sightings at night, and three families reported missing pets, according to Forensics Investigator William McDonald.

"I pride myself on being a bit of an old-fashioned gumshoe detective," said McDonald, whose new revelations and research are woven into the fictional storyline of NY Times best-selling author Steve Alten's latest thriller, The LOCH. "I've spent twelve years getting to know the locals who work at key infrastructures along the Loch, such as the waterworks and hydro-electrical plants, places where creature sightings are more apt to occur. Alten knows that, it's why he hired me to help him with his research."

Last winter, McDonald's relations with the locals paid off when they sent him urgent messages to return to Loch Ness because of rare land

BIGFOOT BUST AT BELLINGHAM

sightings. "Land sightings happen in the winter, when the nights are sixteen hours long and before the salmon migrations occur. The creature gets hungry and is more apt to come on shore. I spoke with several families who live close to the water that reported missing pets, and a crofter (farmer) whose sheep went into a frenzy late one night. When he came out with his gun, he heard a tremendous splash."

McDonald's December visit led him to two eyewitnesses and the first-ever documented photos of giant slide tracks. "This was a big animal, at least 50-60 feet long and weighing seven to eight tons. We lucked out because it came ashore after a rainfall. That night it grew very cold and the tracks froze over. The sighting occurred just south of Invermoriston, along the A-82 highway. The two guys who saw this thing were freaked out.

"Most locals know exactly what the creature is, but rarely let on because it would be bad for tourism. How many people would actually come to Loch Ness if they knew the creature was a deepwater species that preferred the depths and ventured topside only in the dead of winter. But my job isn't to protect the economy, it's to get at the truth."

Mr. McDonald can be reached by phone at 480-330-7553 or by e-mail at email protected from spam bots Best regards from Switzerland Andreas.Trottmann@babs.admin.ch

* "Craig Woolheater" ecwool@swbell.net

Monster hunters By Lauren Ober / The Citizen; Auburn, New York

Take the camerawork and suspense of "Blair Witch Project," mix it with the mockumentary wit of "Best in Show," throw in some of the buddy humor of "Bill & Ted's ExcellentAdventure," and you've got what Mike DeForrest and Rob Morphy hope will be a hot new television show.

DeForrest and Morphy, Auburn natives and monster hunters, recently inked a deal with a major television network (they are not at liberty to reveal which one yet), to produce a television pilot based on their Web site, www.americanmonsters.com. They begin production on the pilot in South Carolina in July.

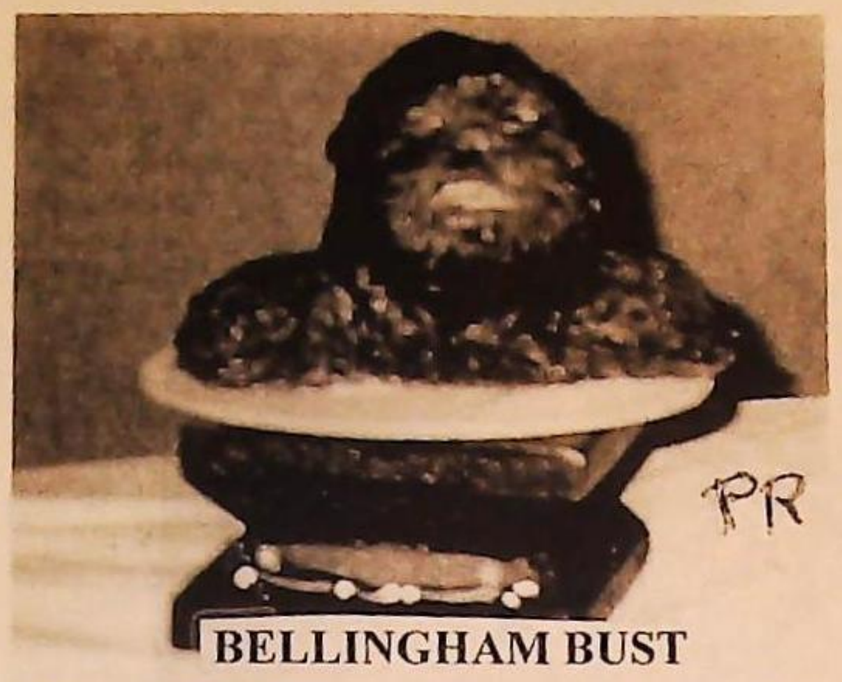
For as long as they can remember, the two best friends have been intrigued by otherworldly creatures such as Sasquatch and the Loch Ness Monster. For Morphy, the fascination with all things monster was sparked by Alan Landsburg's television show, "In Search Of."

"What I loved is that it is so plausible, so easy to believe that there are creatures out there we haven't discovered," Morphy said. "All the time there are new discoveries of new animals that legitimize the hunt." DeForrest and Morphy could be called cryptozoologists, which Morphy explains is one who "searches for hidden animals heretofore unknown to science." Cryptozoology isn't an official science, but for plenty of people around the world, discovering creatures like the Murphysboro Mud Monster or the Gloucester Sea Serpent has become their life's passion.

For the two men, monster hunting, or rather monster seeking, falls somewhere between a hobby and an obsession. They've both done extensive research on monster legends and have traveled all over following monster leads.

The pilot came to fruition after filmmaker and Aurora native Gabe Torres read about the pair's monster hunting exploits in an article in The Citizen. Torres contacted DeForrest and Morphy about possibly turning their Web site concept and their own monster hunting experience into a television show.

"I was always a big fan of monsters as a kid," said Torres, who shot the short film, "The Legend of Firefly Marsh," in Aurora. "When I saw their Web site, I said, 'This is a TV show. This could be fun.'"



BELLINGHAM BUST

The two have the Honey Island Swamp Monster to thank for their big break. In August of 2002, DeForrest and Morphy traveled to a little corner of Louisiana deep in Cajun bayou country to search for the 350-pound, half-human, half-reptile.

For six days, the pair shot footage of the swamp and talked to eyewitnesses who had allegedly seen the creature. They even camped out in the bayou by themselves, seeing if they could capture the monster on film. More than actually finding the creature, the two wanted to chronicle the legend and preserve the story.

And they wanted to have a few adventures themselves. Morphy is emphatic about the fact that there are plenty of areas in the world left to explore and that is part of their whole concept. "There's still wonderful adventures left to have. There are still plenty of spaces that have been barely touched," he said. "It's real easy living in a GPS world to think the hole world has been explored."

With their documentary in the can, the two were able, with Torres as executive producer, to put together a presentation reel to shop around to major networks. They pitched their idea to a couple of major players, who weren't totally sold on the idea. Finally they got a bite and they hope to have the pilot finished by the fall.

Torres said the presentation reel, which was shot as a documentary-style show, has been transformed into a scripted show using actors as the monster hunters instead of DeForrest and Morphy. The two will still serve as producers and technical consultants and will be on air as monster experts.

Though the show will use characters, Bob and Patrick, to explore these legends, Torres is insistent that they will not be making light of those who really believe.

"The show will be in line with Christopher Guest's mockumentaries. It will deal with real characters based on Rob and Mike who are believers," Torres said. "The show is comedic, but surreal. The eyewitnesses are never made fun of."

Casting for Bob and Patrick is almost complete and crews have already done some scouting in South Carolina. If the show gets picked up, DeForrest and Morphy might end up foregoing their day jobs - P.A. announcer for the Auburn Doubledays and freelance video producer, respectively. It would be the break they've been waiting for.

"Television is a great stepping stone into films. We need to start a foundation with a television dynasty first. The series can open up many more doors," Morphy said.

Morphy believes that if the backyard, grassroots concept worked for icons like George A. Romero, it can work for them.

"It's a niche that's definitely not been explored. I want the next generation to see the things that pleased me," he said. "I want to be part of the great pantheon of creators."

Staff writer Lauren Ober can be reached at 253-5311 ext. 245 or lauren.ober@lee.net

* "Craig Woolheater" ecwool@swbell.net
Bigfoot presence can no longer be ignored
June 18, 2005Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Am I the only one who sees a disturbing pattern here? It's obvious that Arkansas is becoming a hotbed of bigfoot sightings and that can only mean one thing — an active sasquatch cell is finally stirring and the Natural State is ground zero.

It's hardly a wonder. Vast tracts of our sparsely populated state are veritable wildernesses. The only sign of life is the occasional camouflaged turkey hunter or a rusting Deltic Timber sign.

"Sasquatch" is the anglicized derivative of the Salish Indian word "sesquac" meaning" wild, filthy, hairy, stinking man." Bigfoot sightings may have begun in the Pacific Northwest, but they've spread across the country in the last 50 years.

It's the kind of data such as that provided by Carl "Cooter" Scroggins of Black Diamond in Miller County. While trapping nutria in the Sulphur River Wildlife Management Area, Scroggins had a close encounter. "I had the spooky feeling that I was being watched," Scroggins reports on the Web site under Arkansas Sightings. "It made the hackles on the back of my neck stand up." Photos of Scroggins reveal that he is one of the extreme minority of humans who actually have congenital, vestigial hackles. Scroggins also reported that his dogs kept whimpering and eventually broke free and disappeared into the swamplands of Mercer Bayou. "I also smelt a real bad stink," he added.

BFRO reports that 10 to 15 percent of all bigfoot encounters are accompanied by an intense, disagreeable stench not unlike the infamous bunga bangkai flower. The origin is thought to emanate from the bigfoot's axillary organ with its apocrine sweat glands.

Scroggins found tracks and made a plaster cast and submitted the photos to BFRO. Investigators concluded the bigfoot would wear an impressive size 22 EEEE sneaker and be a mature male approximately 7 feet, 10 inches in height and weighing 680 pounds.

How such a massive creature could remain undetected seems implausible until you consider the location.

Arkansas' Sulphur/Red River corridor is heavily wooded, crisscrossed by creeks and bayous, and is fearsomely inhospitable to humans. In fact, only U.S. 71 carries the slender thread of civilization through this forbidding land.

But it's not only southwest Arkansas where sasquatch seems to be active. Sightings have occurred in 27 Arkansas counties, from Baxter in the north to Union in the south. That there have been five sightings in Saline County should give central Arkansas citizens cause for pause.

One enterprising entrepreneur has opened a Bigfoot convenience store franchise in Fouke to cater to the expected crowd of curious. A bigfoot was allegedly spotted attempting to purchase a Big Slurp there last Tuesday. The stench cleared the store.

Until next time, Kalaka reminds you to report all bigfoot sightings to the Game & Fish Commission. Should sasquatch become a problem, a hunting season will be declared and that should take care of that.

* Completey revised and greatly expanded edition of "Bigfoot at My Door" is now for sale.
The first 100 copies will be numbered.
http://www.bigfootlady.net/nightshadows.html Also, "50 Years" is again being sold as there continues to be an ongoing interest in it especially since the National Geographic Special aired on the Bigfoot Special. Many people have asked me when I was going to put it up for sale once more, so I have decided to do so with the sudden new surge of interest in it.
http://www.bigfootlady.net/fiftyvears.html Here's a link if anyone needs the two Russian Hominidbooks (signed) by Dmitri Bayanov. (Dr. Igor Bourtseve was the field investigator of these two books and theyare awesome!) http://www.bigfootlady.net/russianbooks.html
Please remember, I can only accept money orders or cashiers checks made payable to Mary Green, cash, or paypal at www.paypal.com Information concerning this is on the link to the "Night Shadow" Book. If there are any questions, please write me off group at greenma@multipro.com
I feel really good about my new book, which is a complete revision and update of "Bigfoot at My Door".It is the book I always wanted to write and never had the time for until now. Mary Green, 233 Warren Ave, Algood, TN 35806

* "Craig Woolheater" ecwool@swbell.net
Bigfoot in Atchafalaya Basin? by Andrew Griffin
Sightings of Bigfoot-type bipedal creatures appear to be on the upswing here in the Bayou State. I just received an e-mail this afternoon from a Morgan City man named Floyd. He recounted a very intriguing tale that occurred yesterday, June 29. Floyd said he and his cousin, "Jamie," were in his bass boat fishing for bass in a remote area of the Basin in rural St. Mary Parish. For those unfamiliar with the area, the Atchafalaya Basin is a huge, unpopulated area with thousands of acres of swampland, located in south-central Louisiana. It was hot and pretty normal weather for late June and Floyd and "Jamie," who don't see one another very often, were looking forward to some fishing. "It's a remote place that not too many people know about," Floyd said of the fishing hole. But something was amiss on this summer day. Both had noted a strange feeling of being watched but had largely ignored it -- that was until "Jamie" became "white as a ghost." "Jamie," who was nearly incoherent, said he saw something large and hairy and "with a flat face" staring right at them from "10 to 15 feet" from the bank of the bayou. Floyd said when he looked over, he briefly saw the creature, which he estimated to be about 7-feet tall. It moved over so as not to be seen and "squatted down like a human, not like any bear." What struck Floyd as strange is that this creature didn't even make a sound ."I can't believe we didn't hear it," Floyd said. Floyd said his cousin, who is not prone to believing in folk tales or the paranormal, was deeply frightened by the unusual encounter and

is reluctant to talk about it, even with members of his family. Floyd said he contacted me through my Town Talk e-mail account because he found my name along with some Bigfoot-related stories I'd recently written.

"He's still shook up," Floyd said. "In all the years I've known him I've never seen him react that way." Floyd said he and his cousin attempted to fish some more after fleeing the area where the sighting took place, but found they were too nervous to enjoy the sport." He was so shook up he had trouble getting the bait on the line," Floyd said.

* "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net

From the Happy Camp (CA) News:Bigfoot Sighting Near Happy Camp By Linda Martin June 27, 2005 - A commuter driving to work Saturday morning, June 25th, rounded a turn in Highway 96 a few miles east of Happy Camp. The commuter pulled into the south lane to pass the car ahead and noticed a large dark creature stepping over a guard rail next to a culvert. The creature crossed the road and started to climb an extremely steep incline where the hillside had been cut away to create the roadway years before. Looking up while passing a 25mph sign, the commuter got a good look at the creature. This witness, a well-known and credible member of our community, has seen many bears and knew this wasn't one. It was upright and ran like a man, its long arms swinging. It was about eight feet tall, looked like an ape, and was covered with dark hair. After getting to Happy Camp the commuter stopped to recover from the shock. The other car - the one that was passed at the scene of the sighting – sped ahead and stopped in at JavaBob's Bigfoot Deli. Bob Schmalzbach (JavaBob) remembers they ordered coffee and two spoons. They didn't look familiar and could have been tourists passing through on Highway 96.

The commuter saw the other car at JavaBob's and pulled in just as they were leaving only to find out they hadn't said a word about the strange creature crossing the road in front of them. This witness proceeded to tell Java Bob about the experience. Later at work this person called a friend to relate the incident. The friend packed a 357 Magnum and a camera, drove to the scene of the incident between mile markers 47 and 48, and got out of the car. Standing next to the guard rail on the south side of the highway and looking up at the slope on the north, it was hard to imagine that anyone or anything could climb such a steep incline. At that time there was a rustling sound at the top, and this person saw the creature standing there. It raised it's head and turned to walk away. This witness could see the creature so clearly that when it lifted its foot to leave, the lighter-colored heel-pad was visible. A moment later the witness heard voices which could have drifted up from the river. This site is in close proximity to the China Point River Access. Thinking it could be the voices of teenagers who'd been playing a trick, dressing up as a Bigfoot to frighten people, the witness drove around to the other side of the hill where there's a clearing and parking area used by Cal-Trans. The place was deserted. These two witnesses decided to have lunch at JavaBob's where they told him what they'd seen. Later JavaBob said, "Because I know these people and they are extremely credible people, I made the decision to call Tom Biscardi." Tom Biscardi is a world-renowned Bigfoot researcher with 32 years experience in the field, living in Las Vegas. He put together his first Bigfoot research team in the early 1970's. He's seen Bigfoot five times already and knows their habits and what's involved in tracking them. He said, "I'll be right there," and immediately packed to make the long journey north from Las Vegas to Happy Camp. In Santa Rosa he connected with Great American Bigfoot Research Organization team members Tim McMillen and Elbert Yee. Together the researchers reached Happy Camp at 3am where JavaBob sat up waiting for them. At the site of the incident JavaBob, Biscardi and his team looked up at the hillside, amazed that a Bigfoot would climb such a steep incline. Tim McMillen volunteered to try it and within a few minutes was at the top. The others went around to the back and hiked in on an aging, leaf-covered trail. Around them grew abundant pine, madrone, oak, deer brush and poison oak. Mosquitoes swarmed but the beauty of the forest was enough to make one almost forget the insects. About fifty yards into the forest they came across a set of large footprints, which have since been set in plaster. One was full, on the top of a hillock. On this one an arch was visible. The other was of a heel – the ground underneath had given way and dermal ridges, the hallmark of a primate, were apparent. Though JavaBob was still with the research team at this point, he decided to turn back because he didn't want to accidentally destroy any evidence. After marking the footprints, the team searched the top of the ridge looking for more evidence. They were looking for scat, hair samples, large broken limbs, disturbed greenery, and bedding material - but of these they found nothing. Next they procured plaster of paris in Happy Camp but it was so liquefied it soaked into the ground rather than setting, so they decided to wait and get plaster elsewhere. At 2pm they met with the second Bigfoot observer. This witness took them back to the site and gave a first-hand account of what was seen. Together the witness and the research team retraced this person's steps on the day of the sighting. They decided to stake out the area that night, using trail-trip cameras. They secured the perimeter and laid out road kill as bait. Contrary to the beliefs of many that these creatures are not carnivorous, Biscardi says they will eat both vegetation and meat. Tim McMillen was chosen to spend the night in a tree watching over the site. He and team member Elbert Yee set up two trail trip cameras - one on each side of Rocky, the luckless raccoon. They cleared the area and McMillen set up with infrared (IR) cameras, and an IR monocle (night scope), plus a two-way radio for communications with Yee who spent the night nearby in the clearing, stationed and ready to monitor anything that happened from inside a 2500 Suburban. Less than two hours later Yee was dozing off when he felt a slight push on the vehicle. He opened his eyes to see the radio antenna moving back and forth as if something had hit it. He went back to sleep making sure the two-way radio was on in case McMillen needed to contact him.Within 45 minutes, it happened again. This time the jolt that woke him was stronger and the antenna was moving more wildly than before. Something out there had pushed at the Suburban. Was it playing a game or issuing a warning? This time Yee awoke fully and radioed McMillen to report the incidents. McMillen, deep in the forest and high in a madrone tree wanted to help. In the confusion of the moment he dropped the two-way radio. He had to climb down from the tree to recover it and Yee told him to maintain his position in the tree for the time being. He was safe from whatever was pushing at the Suburban so long as he was behind steel and glass. During the night McMillen saw both cameras tripped. The flash went off more than once but at the time of this writing the pictures were not available. His IR monocle didn't work as well as hoped due to the moon being behind clouds. Around 6:05am they collected all cameras and went back to Happy Camp to tell Tom Biscardi about their experiences. JavaBob got people coming in from Medford, Oregon, to bring the needed plaster of paris. This they poured into the footprints at 9am. Dermal ridges can clearly be seen in these plaster casts. That afternoon Biscardi met and talked to the first observer, the one who had the closest look at the creature as he crossed the highway and climbed the steep hillside. Tom Biscardi and his team came to the conclusion this was a migratory creature, not a resident Bigfoot indigenous to the area. They plan on returning next weekend to pursue a lead in an area in close proximity to Happy Camp. In that area they may be able to find a resident Bigfoot. Both witnesses requested their names not be used in this article and they do not want to be contacted for more information. Anyone wanting to report a Bigfoot sighting in the Happy Camp area should do so through JavaBob's Bigfoot Deli which now serves as the official Bigfoot research center of Happy Camp.

* "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net

BIGFOOT -- IMMINENT CAPTURE ANTICIPATED.:Story originally published by:.Star Tribune Casper / WY - June 30, 2005

BURLINGAME, CA -- (MARKET WIRE) -- "The elusive creature known as Bigfoot may not be elusive for very much longer," according to C. Thomas Biscardi, A Bigfoot explorer and founder of the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization.

In the next few days, Biscardi will begin an investigation into a cavernous area near Happy Camp, California, in which he expects to find evidence of Bigfoot inhabitation and hopefully be able to contain and capture a live creature. This particular location has been chosen based on two very recent sightings from very credible witnesses. When Biscardi was contacted to follow up on these sightings, his investigation led to finding footprints indicative of a large primate. An account of this investigation is available in an article by Linda Martin datelined June 27, 2005 in the Happy Camp News at www.happycampnews.com. Since the public is skeptical of any Bigfoot sightings, Biscardi has invited news organizations and a team of documentary filmmakers from Sweden to join him on this investigation. Joining him will be Megan Landers, a reporter from The Medford News, Medford, Oregon, and filmmakers from Sweden, led by producer, David Sayer. The filmmakers are currently doing a movie about Bigfoot. In the event that Biscardi and his team will be able to contain and capture a creature, further scientific study is slated to be coordinated under the supervision of Dr. George W. Gill, Ph.D., a professor of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming. "This is a high stakes, high risk, scientific and commercial expedition," according to Biscardi. A recent two-and-a-half minute videotape of a Bigfoot sighting in Manitoba, Canada, was recently sold for an undisclosed sum to the television program "A Current Affair." The undisclosed sum, according to Biscardi's sources, "is purported to be in the high six figures." The findings and materials forthcoming from this investigation will also be offered for commercial sale and distribution. Organizations interested in acquiring the rights for projects such as publishing, television, film, merchandising, lectures and exhibits based on Biscardi's expeditions can submit their inquiries to Robert Barrows, President of R.M. Barrows, Inc. Advertising and Public Relations at 205 Park Rd., 208, Burlingame, California, 94010, Tel: 650-344-1951. Barrows will be reviewing initial requests and submissions and will be coordinating publicity for the expedition. Information about previous Bigfoot sightings by Biscardi is available on the web site of the Great American Bigfoot

Research Organization at www.greatamericanbigfoot.com. For additional information on this current investigation, contact Robert Barrows at 650-344-1951. For more information: Robert Barrows R.M. Barrows Advertising and Public Relations: 650-344-1951

* From:"Craig Woolheater" ecwool@swbell.net Naples Daily News (Florida) The Islander: Tale of the Ape; Weekend festival will pay tribute to a mythic though malodorous figure By MEGHAN NUTTER, Staff Writer,June 10, 2005 Something is lurking in the Everglades. Nobody is exactly sure what it is, but many have witnessed it, or at least its smell. When the odor of rotten eggs, manure and skunk permeates the air, folks keep their eyes peeled for the Skunk Ape.

The supposed apelike creature is said to roam the Everglades, occasionally being spotted by a human. Some believe it is a Sasquatch, possibly a relative of Bigfoot, that is said to roam the Pacific Northwest.

Whatever it is, it has gained a lot of attention by locals, and those farther flung, and this weekend a huge party will be thrown in its honor.

The third annual Skunk Ape Festival will kick off at noon Saturday, June 11, at Trail Lakes Campground in Ochopee and will run until 9 p.m. with live music and food. There will be eyewitness testimonials, of course, as those who have seen the Skunk Ape share their stories with the crowd. Additionally, a Ms. Skunk Ape contest will allow local ladies to show off their knowledge of the creature. The whole shebang will be carried off by local man David Shealy, who had his first encounter with the Skunk Ape 30 years ago. "The Skunk Ape has always been a part of my life," Shealy said. "When I was 10 years old I saw my first sighting of the Skunk Ape when I was hunting with my brother."The Skunk Ape was a favorite topic of dinner conversations with family and friends when Shealy was a kid. And ever since he first spotted it, Shealy has been looking for the creature and said he has even captured it on film and on a seven-minute video. "There is a certain amount of truth in everything," Shealy said. "Hundreds of people aren't going to say they have seen something if there isn't anything there to see. They are seeing something; what it is exactly, I don't know." What Shealy does know is that the Skunk Ape generates a lot of excitement and the festival is a good family-oriented event. He remembers a similar festival when he was a child in Ochopee. It was started by local man Bill Mitchell, who at that time owned the Oasis Visitors Center. The festival had carnival rides, canoe races, sky divers and, of course, the Skunk Ape "It was the first time I had ever seen carnival rides," Shealy said. "I was basically living in the dark out here in the Everglades. I had heard about the Skunk Ape, but that was the first time anybody went public with the information."

In 2003, in memory of Mitchell, Shealy decided to throw a Skunk Ape Festival. It grew a little in 2004, and this year Shealy hopes to draw an even larger crowd. He has dedicated this year's festival to Tommy and Danny Mitchell, sons of the late Bill Mitchell. Local musician Kimberly Lamp will sing as well as co-host the show. Between performances, those who have seen the Skunk Ape will get up to share their stories with the crowd. Also, throughout the day, the recent documentary The Ochoppee Skunk Ape will be shown. The film by Nate Martin stars Shealy and portrays his life's obsession with the Skunk Ape. The animal exhibit at the campground will be open during the festival for children to view the alligators, snakes, parrots and other animals. A handler will be there to answer questions. Skunk Ape merchandise will be for sale, along with food, and festival goers can bring coolers and lawn chairs.

And — who knows? — the Skunk Ape itself just may make an appearance. So if that rather distinct odor wafts past your nostrils, keep your eyes open and your camera ready, and you might have your own Skunk Ape tale to tell.

* "Craig Woolheater," ecwool@swbell.net Skunk Ape festival draws crowd of believers, skeptics; By TRACY X. MIGUEL, June 12, 2005

The four-wheeler was about triple 7-year-old Erica Burkard's size, yet that didn't intimidate her from climbing onto the swamp buggy. As the tires splashed through the water and crushed the limestone-covered road, the noise got louder and louder at the Trail Lakes Campground in Ochopee. And the ride got bumpier. Erica and her sister, Tori Long, 13, sat shoulder-to-shoulder, laughing each time the swamp buggy, owned and driven by Trail Lakes Campground resident Steve Cribbs, 51, tilted to the side. "We are going down ... wow ... wow," said Erica. "Hold on," said their aunt, Sandy Long.

It was the first time the youngsters, both of Ohio, who were on vacation in Naples, had seen Ochopee and ridden such a big-wheeler. It was also the first time they'd heard the tales which have circulated locally for decades of South Florida's skunk ape, a homegrown counterpart of Bigfoot in the Northwest, during the third annual Everglades Skunk Ape Festival. Despite never having seen a skunk ape and unsure if she believed in it, Naples Resident Sandy Long, 30, said they were having a good time. The festival, hosted by David Shealy, Collier County's skunk ape expert, attracted more than 30 believers and skeptics to a day of live music of Kimberly Lamp, of Copeland, food and a Ms. Skunk Ape contest, at the Trail Lakes Campground on Saturday. Shealy said he was disappointed with the afternoon turnout, but he expected more than 100 people to attend by the end of the festival. "The crowd is a little bit small, but the people who do come are die-hards," he said. Shealy's first sighting of the skunk ape was 30 years ago. He was 10 years old, and he and his brother, Jack, were out hunting when they saw it. The skunk ape has characteristics that make it different from Bigfoot. It weighs about 300 pounds, has reddish-brown hair, is 7 feet tall and has a distinctive odor. Since then, Shealy has devoted his time to showing his videos and pictures of the skunkape to the public. In the past, Shealy has appeared on TV shows such as "Inside Edition," "Extra" and "Unsolved Mysteries." This year, there have been two sightings of the skunk ape in the Big Cypress National Preserve and County Road 92 heading toward Marco Island, said Shealy. The sightings weren't by Shealy.

Shealy said that he would like to get support from local businesses and the county for the festival. Yet Shealy isn't the only person who believes in the skunk ape. Among attendees was Jason Kauntze-Cockburn, of West Palm Beach, who saw Shealy On "Unsolved Mysteries" and decided to make the trip to Ochopee.

At 41, Kauntze-Cockburn calls himself a skeptical believer. "I've been intrigued in Bigfoot since I was 10 years old," said Kauntze-Cockburn.

Kauntze-Cockburn said he has looked for Bigfoot all around the country and looked at things that people claim as evidence, but he admits that the so-called evidence could be from a bear or a deer." I believe it, but I still need you to prove it to me," he said.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> Subject: Large bones found in Texas; Brownwood (TX) Bulletin: 12 June 2005; Bangs workers unearth large, mysterious bones; By Rick Phelps -- Brownwood Bulletin

BANGS, Tex. -- What should have been a normal, routine day for Bangs city employees Derrick Walker and Ray Gothard ended with dealings with the local police, a Texas Ranger, the Wildlife Department and an archeology expert. While digging a trench and laying a water line on Ray Barnes Drive on Thursday, Gothard noticed some bone fragments in the dirt that Walker, who was operating a back hoe, had dumped on the side of the trench.

"Ray reached down and picked some up to be sure he was correct and motioned for Derrick to stop," said Noble Erler, Bangs mayor. Walker, seeing the bones, jumped into the 4-foot trench and began "lightly scraping" the area with a shovel and found some larger bones. While surveying their find, Gothard noticed what appeared to be a leg bone.

Bangs Police Chief Don Carmack responded to the scene to establish, if possible, whether or not the bones the workers had unearthed were of a person.

"The first concern was to make sure the bones were not human remains," Carmack said. After consulting with Texas Ranger Nick Hanna, Carmack contacted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, since the bones were found near a major water line. A biologist arrived, who said the bones may belong to a prehistoric mastodon or bison." Absolutely nothing is confirmed yet," Carmack explained.

Claude Hudspeth, an archeological steward with the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, visited the site Friday morning and agreed the bones appeared to be too large to belong to any animal typically found in BrownCounty today.

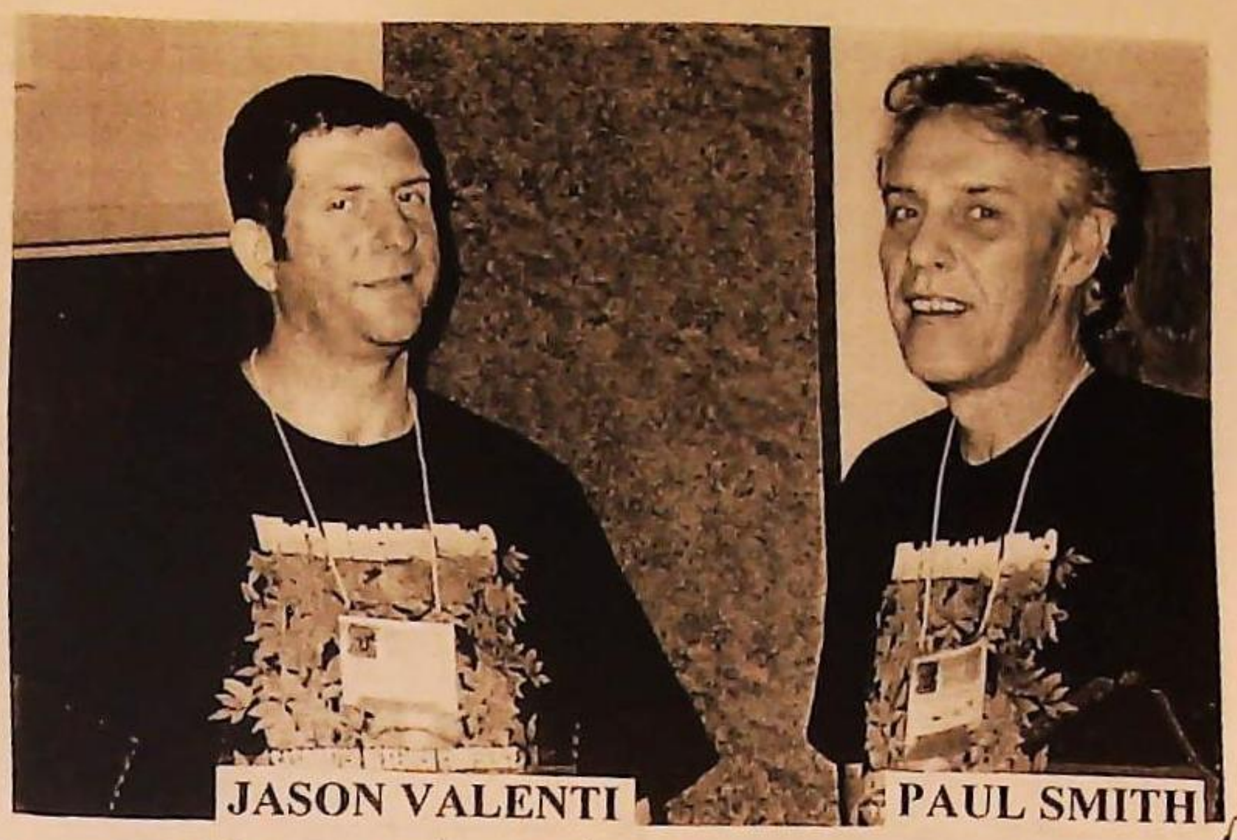
"I am not sure either of what these bones are, but they look too big to be a domestic animal's. "On Friday afternoon, arrangements were being made to contact other experts in the field to survey the bones.

"This is a very exciting find for the City of Bangs," Erler said. "Although we do not have confirmation as to what the animal is, we do have the site covered and taped off. We just want to let curiosity-seekers know that if they cross that police line, they will be breaking the law, and will be arrested."

Erler said when the city receives definitive confirmation of the nature of the bones, an announcement will be made to the public.

* "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net From the Courier (Conroe, TX): 19 June 2005; Cryptozoology conference draws fans of the unusual By: Kassia Micek, Courier staff. Those searching for Bigfoot and other unusual creatures gathered Saturday for the fourth annual Southern Crypto Conference at the Montgomery County Fairground's Horseshoe Club." About 250 people gathered today to talk about the pursuit for unknown creatures," said conference organizer Chester Moore. "We think this is important because (cryptozoology) is the forefront of zoology. This is about the pursuit of unknown animals and it's becoming very popular." And what crypto conference would be complete without Bigfoot. "I'm obsessed with Bigfoot," said Ella Howard, of East Bernard. "They practically own East Texas." There was a Bigfoot sighting 15 miles Southeast of Howard's residence in1979 and another one 20 miles south in the 1990s, she said. "I can't call myself a researcher, but I am a field researcher," Howard said about interviewing those who've claimed to have seen Bigfoot and keeping up with current research available on the Internet. Howard and her sister, Melissa Miller, of La Porte, attended the first and second annual Southern Crypto conferences and are big fans of

Moore's research. Other topics of Saturday's conference were living dinosaurs, pterodactyls in New Guinea and giant catfish. Moore, cryptokeeper.com host and zoologist, is researching giant catfish across Southern reservoirs. Many people have reported catfish the size of Volkswagen Beetles; however, Moore said he's pretty sure a catfish has not been found that large nor can one grow to that size. In order to prove just how big a catfish can get, he's conducting the Giant Catfish Tour and will dive in Lake Conroe in the weeks ahead to search for a giant catfish there. Wesley Simpson, of Silsbee, attended Saturday's conference with his 11-year-old son, Ben. "Basically I wanted to get some information on giant catfish," Wesley said, adding that a relative of his caught a nearly four-foot-long catfish by accident while clearing a rice field. "I've been curious about how big a catfish can get." Ben was interested in learning more about Mothman, which is a creature that supposedly suddenly appears and disappears, and the Chupacabra, which is a creature from Mexico that lives off goats and it's been debated the Chupacabra is scaly and can fly. But Ben said he doesn't think the Chupacabra, which is reportedly moving into the U.S., can fly. For more information about cryptozoology visit Moore's Web site, www.cryptokeeper.com.


JASON VALENTI PAUL SMITH

Sasquatch comedy filming in Oregon

Location shooting by two of the people behind "Napoleon Dynamite" will continue through early July

By **STEVEN AMICK**
THE OREGONIAN

Two of the creators of last year's offbeat hit "Napoleon Dynamite" chose the Portland area to film a comedy about a Bigfoot hunter to be released next spring.

Producers of "The Sasquatch Dumpling Gang" filmed this month in Oregon City, Gladstone, Estacada and West Linn. They will continue working in Oregon until shortly after July Fourth.

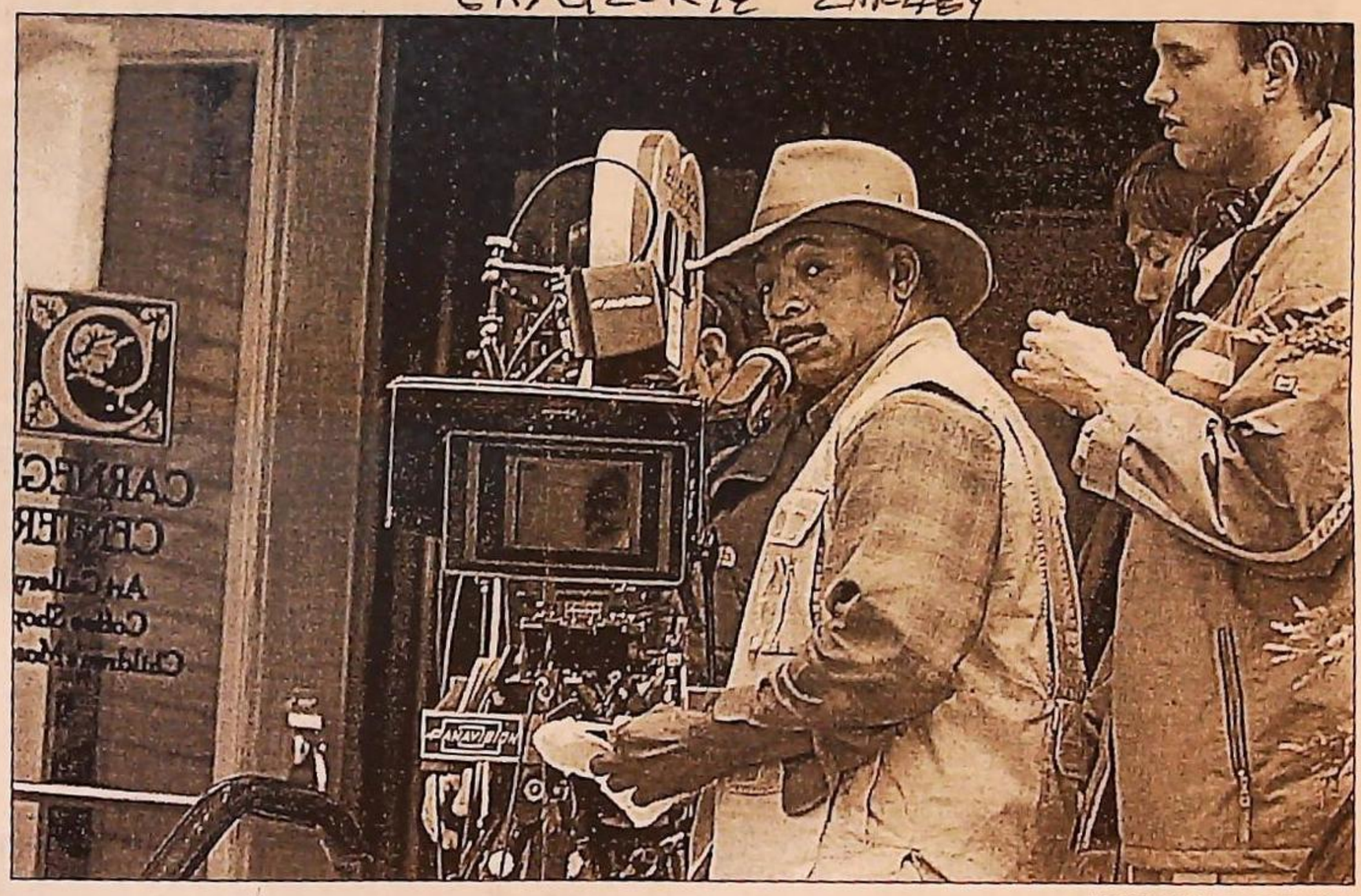
The movie, written and directed by Tim Skousen and produced by Jeremy Coon, follows a group of young friends who discover large footprints in the woods.

Carl Weathers ("Arrested Development," "Predator," "Rocky") plays Dr. Artimus Snodgrass, a world-famous Sasquatch expert trying to determine whether the prints are Bigfoot tracks.

During a break in Friday's filming at Mary S. Young State Park in West Linn, Weathers said it feels good to be back in the Northwest.

For a decade before he moved last year to Venice, Calif., the former Oakland Raiders football player lived and raised cattle on Washington's Whidbey Island.

"I appreciate the beauty and serenity of the woods here," said Weathers, 57. "Also, Portland is a magnificent city. Since I was first here, in the mid-'70s, it's been transformed; the culture, the diversity, the architecture."


BOB ELLIS/THE OREGONIAN

Actor Carl Weathers (in hat) stars as a Bigfoot hunter in "The Sasquatch Dumpling Gang," a film in production in the Portland area. For a scene filmed Wednesday, the Carnegie Center in Oregon City was used as a courthouse.

Bob Schmaling, project manager for the Oregon Film and Video Office, said "The Sasquatch Dumpling Gang" is a relatively low-budget motion picture. "They'll spend under a million dollars in Oregon," Schmaling said. Much of that money, however, is providing jobs for Oregonians.

About half of the 60 or so members of the principal cast, as well as about 500 extras, are local.

Actors Justin Long and Joey Kern enjoyed an evening along Portland's Northwest 23rd Avenue on Thursday night.

"Joey and I both lived in New York for a long time," Long said, "and parts of downtown Portland are very much like New York."

Kern nodded. "People here," he said, "are a lot more alternative than I thought."

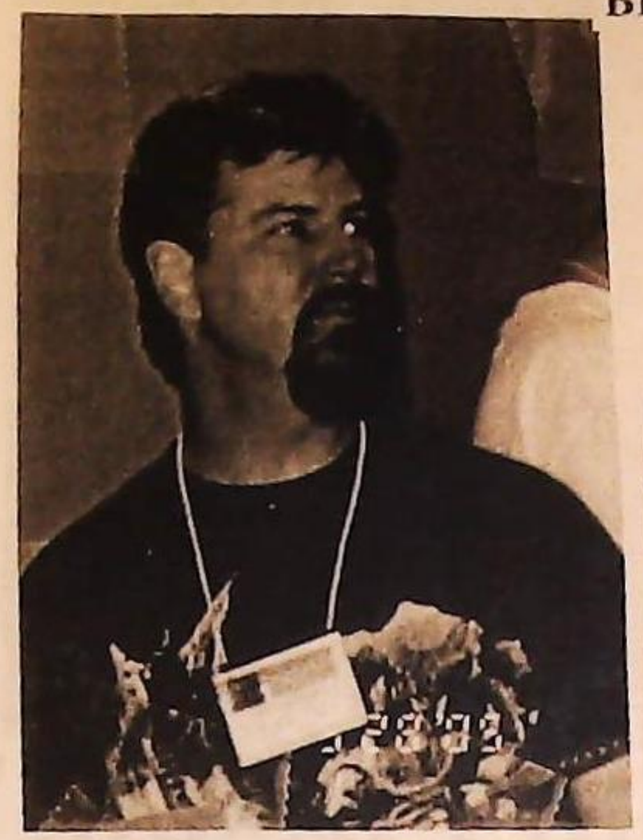
◆

Steven Amick: 503-294-5915; stevenamick@news.oregonian.com

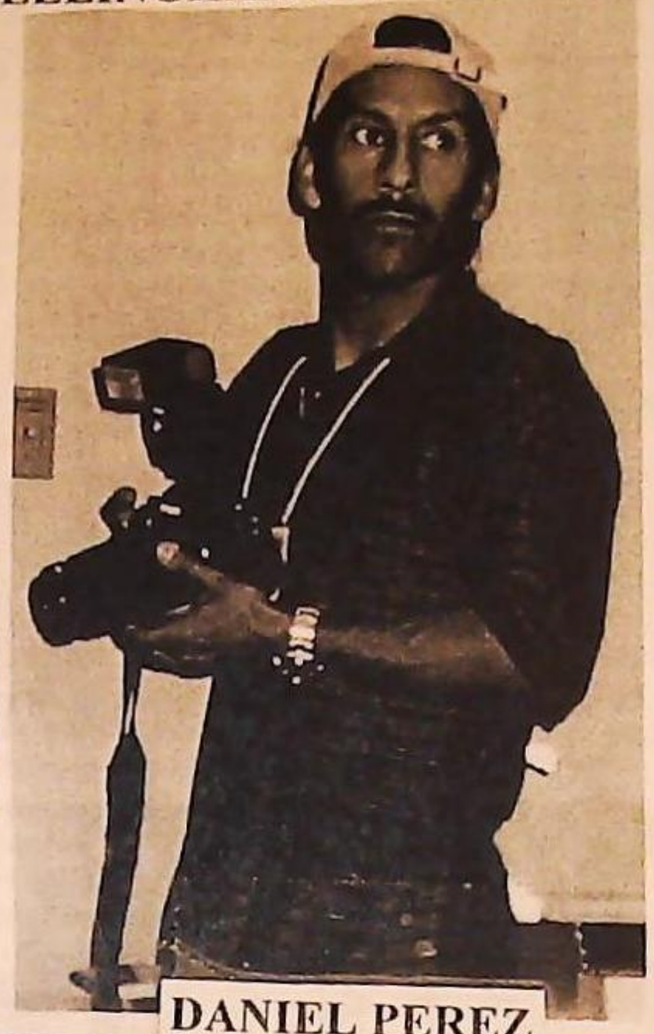
"I appreciate the beauty and serenity of the woods here. Also, Portland is a magnificent city. Since I was first here, in the mid-'70s, it's been transformed; the culture, the diversity, the architecture."

CARL WEATHERS

BELLINGHAM PHOTOS BY PATTI REINHOLD

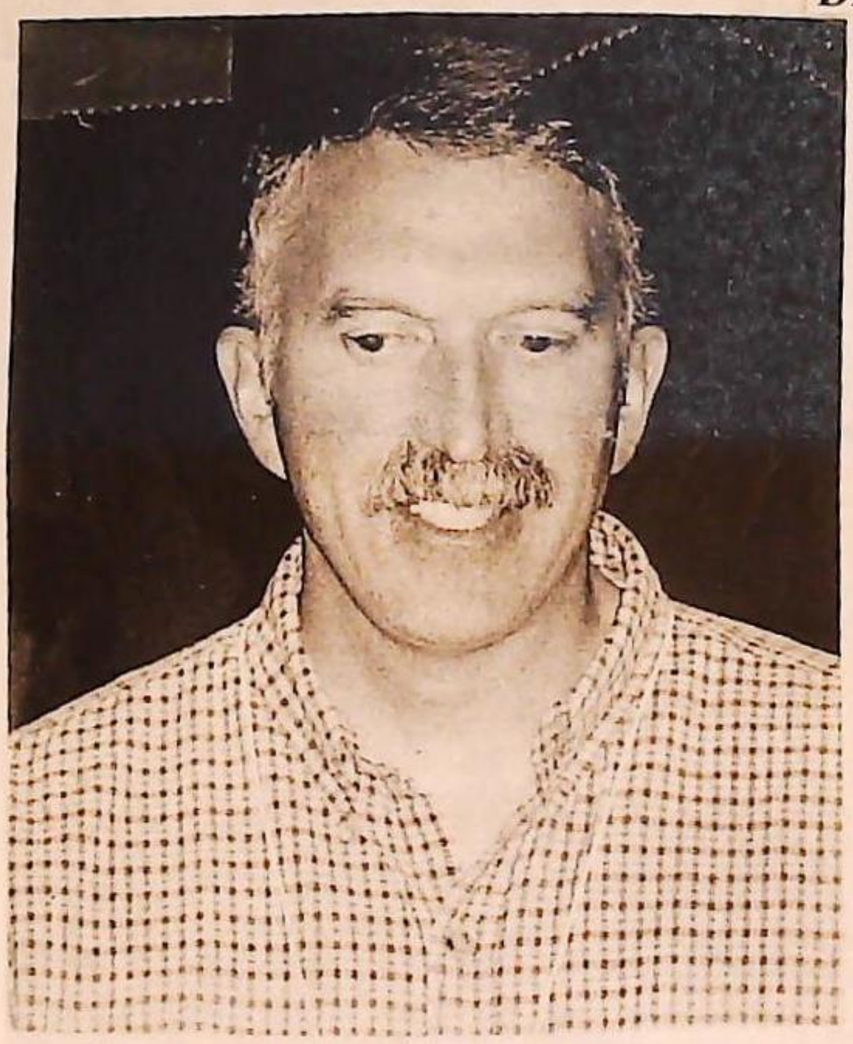


TIM MOORE



DANIEL PEREZ

THOMAS STEENBURG



DR J. MELDRUM

LOREN COLEMAN

CHRIS MURPHY

AL BERRY & RON MOREHEAD

AUTUMN WILLIAMS

RICH GROVER & KEWAUNEE LAPSERITIS

Local Bigfoot reports BFRO

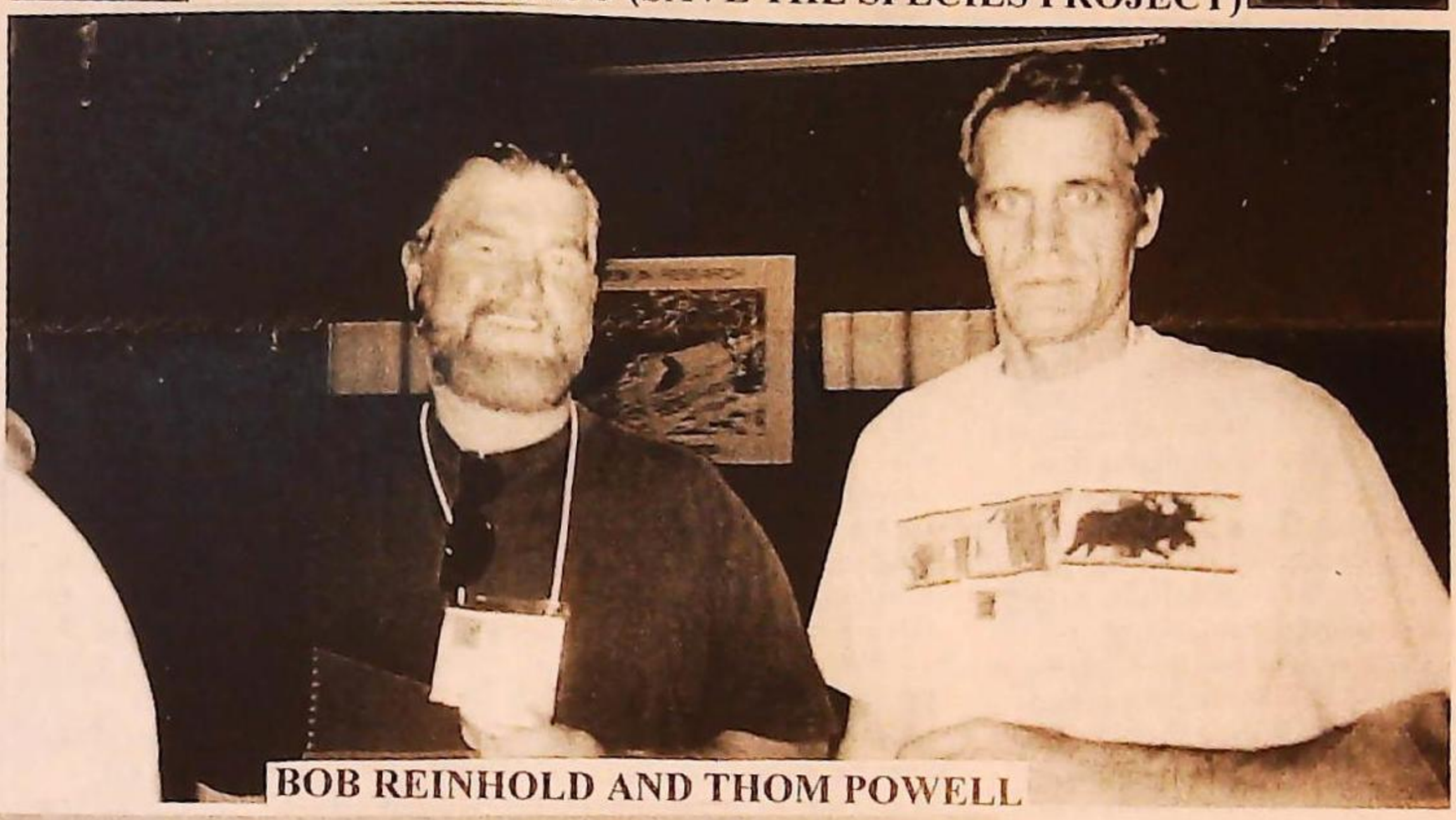
Chelan County

- August 1968: Backpacker observes a tall, early-morning visitor in camp, Colchuck Lake.
- February 1973: Two men see something walk up and over ridge behind home.
- August 1975: Campers hear loud animal "roars" near a clear-cut, west of Lake Wenatchee.
- May 1997: Hikers find tracks and a possible nest, Ingalls Creek area.
- July 1998: Screams wake campers on consecutive nights at Cle Elum Lake.
- July 2000: Campers hear vocalizations near Clear Lake off Stemilt Loop Road.
- October 2002: Man hunting deer finds unusual feces and hears animal near Ardenvoir.
- August 2004: Driver has road-cross sighting on Highway 2, north of Leavenworth.

Okanogan County

- January 1976. Strong odor, crunching footsteps and large humanlike tracks found in snow near Twisp.
- August 1986: Campers hear multiple vocalizations at Loup Loup Campground
- January 1993. Equipment operator finds tracks in three feet of snow near Molson.
- May 1996: Memorial Day weekend video of creature near Chopaka Mountain in the Pasayten Wilderness.
- October 1997: Screams heard by hunters outside of Winthrop.
- October 2000: Campers hear possible vocalizations in the Okanogan National Forest.
- October 2001: Two deer hunters find tracks near Buckhorn Mountain.

JOHN COPIABIANCO (SAVE THE SPECIES PROJECT)



BOB REINHOLD AND THOM POWELL

BOB GIMLIN & JOHN KIRK

Yakima Herald-Republic, February 18, 2005

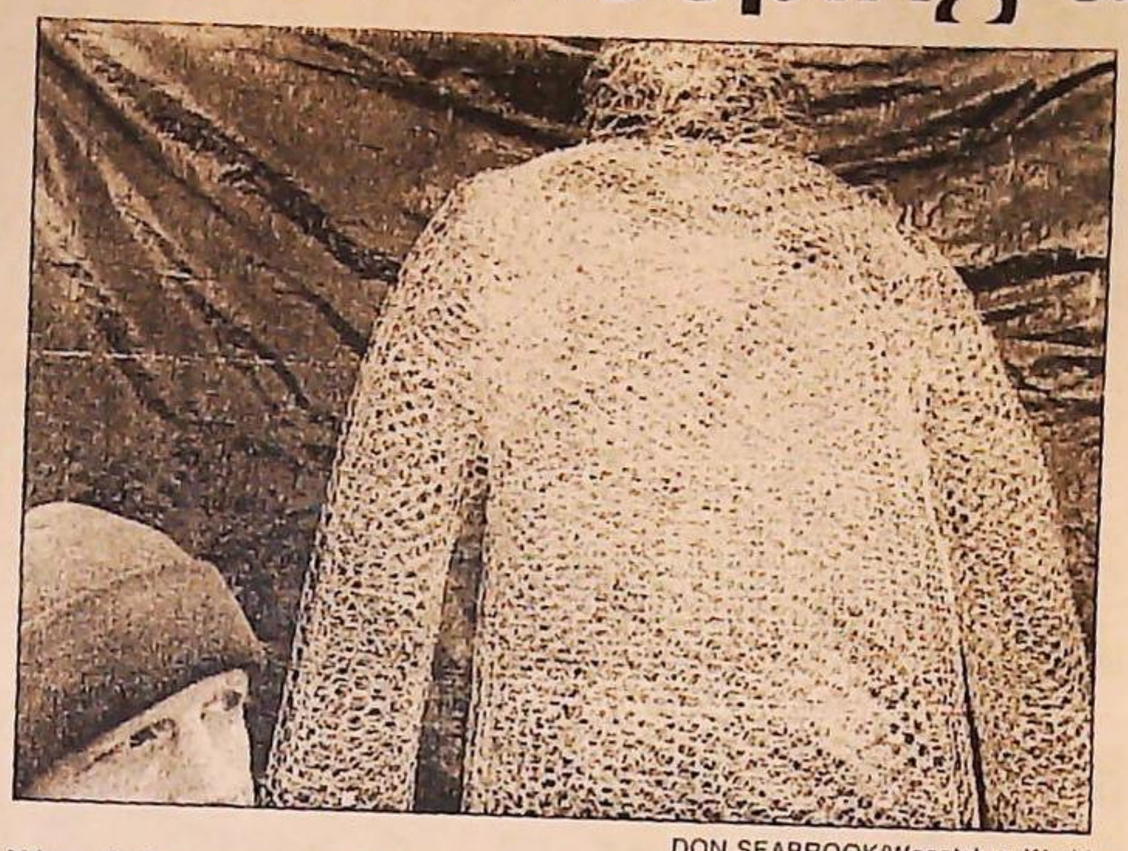
Bigfoot believer keeping the faith

By RICK STEIGMEYER
WENATCHEE WORLD

WENATCHEE — Paul Graves recalls waking to a chilling sound: a haunting, whooping scream that carried across the valley in the icy dawn.

Graves, 43, of Wenatchee, described the long, piercing call as sounding like a woman's cry, but in whooping breaths as those made by an ape.

"We just looked at each other in disbelief," Graves said about himself and a friend, both avid Sasquatch believers, who had spent the first night of 2005 camped in a tent near Stevens Pass hoping to hear just a sound. "We heard it scream twice. It wasn't close, but it had the volume to carry across the valley."



DON SEABROOK/Wenatchee World

Wenatchee resident Paul Graves has begun building an 8-foot-tall sculpture of Bigfoot that he plans to put in his garden for local residents to see. For now, he hides it behind a tarp in his back yard. Graves does not want his face to be fully photographed, afraid of being harassed on his views that Bigfoot creatures indeed roam the national forests.

THERE ARE MANY believers, Graves among them, nearly a year after the most-accepted Sasquatch documentation was debunked by a Yakima man who claimed to have worn a gorilla suit for a film of the mythical creature striding through a Northern California forest.

Graves is a researcher-investigator for the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, one of dozens of Bigfoot organizations that have taken off with renewed interest and new reports in the past few years thanks to Internet communication. Graves was one of three state investigators named by the organization last year after participating in a weeklong search for the elusive creature. His qualifications included his 15-year interest and thorough knowledge of Bigfoot research, he said.

Graves is a local general cement contractor, musician, sculptor and the son of well-known Northwest artist Robert Graves and retired Wenatchee World feature writer Sheila Graves. He said his new role as an investigator for the BFRO lends credibility to a work that has consumed him for more than 15 years.

The Los Angeles-based BFRO maintains a Web site and claims as its goal to resolve the Bigfoot mystery by collecting data and physical evidence that may one day conclusively prove the species' existence.

"We're looking for credible witnesses," he said. As a BFRO researcher, his job is to interview people who make reports of sightings to make sure they are credible and then add them to the database.

He's come up with a few, including the Ellensburg fireman and his family camping at the Loup Loup Campground near Twisp who heard two or more animals calling each other through the night. The sounds were unlike any the experienced hunter had ever heard and unnerved the family so much they had to abandon their tent and spend the night in their car, Graves reported.

GRAVES BELIEVES there are many people with Sasquatch stories to share who haven't for lack of a credible group to document the information without bringing embarrassment. He hopes to find those people as well as relatives of those who have passed older stories down.

According to the BFRO Web site, the group was started in 1995 by Matthew Moneymaker, a Los Angeles attorney who created the 2001 Discovery Channel documentary, "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science."

Reports of a shy 6- to 8-foot-tall ape-like creature with 18-inch feet that walks erect like a man and lives deep in the forest have circulated for more than 150 years, Graves said. Called Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti, the Abominable Snowman and many other names, sighting have been documented and become the substance of legend for hundreds of years throughout the world.

MORE SIGHTINGS (338) have been reported in Washington than anywhere in the nation, according to the BFRO Web site. Most (46) have come from Skamania County, near Mount St. Helens. Chelan and Okanogan County have eight well-documented sightings each. Douglas and Grant County have none, according to the Web site.

Nearly every Washington Indian tribe has its stories and its own name for the creature, said Graves, who is recording a new song titled, "Dsonaqua," the Kwaikutl Indian name for Bigfoot. He recorded several other songs about Bigfoot and the Northwest mountain mystique when he led the local band Moss Dog in the 1990s. He's also carved soapstone images of the mysterious creature and is currently at work on an 8-foot-tall plaster of paris model that he intends to put in his garden. He knows he'll get a razzing from friends and neighbors, but he's used to it.

"PEOPLE CALL ME Bigfoot, but it doesn't bother me. They're just uneducated," said Graves, who has a bookcase of well-worn copies of Bigfoot books that have been published over the past 40 years.

Other groups are also eager to find more clues about the hairy man of the woods. Ray Crowe, director of the International Bigfoot Society, based in Portland, said modern technology is on the verge of proving Bigfoot's existence. New cameras, Internet connections, sophisticated DNA and fingerprint examinations have already produced a wealth of new information that has scientists believing that a species of early man may have somehow survived, Crowe said by phone Wednesday.

■ *On the Web:*
www.bfro.net
www.internationalbigfoot society.com
Listen to a sasquatch scream:
www.bfro.net/REF/bfmedia.asp

George W. Earley
8820 Dog River Rd.
Mount Hood, OR 97041-7740